

# The Differences between High School and College

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## Documentation

- **High School:** Documentation focuses on determining whether a student is eligible for services.
- **College:** Documentation must provide information on specific functional limitations and demonstrate the need for specific accommodations.

## Self-Advocacy

### Identification

- **High School:** Student is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers.
- **College:** Student must self-identify to the Disability Resource Center.

### Responsibility

- **High School:** Primary responsibility for advocacy typically belongs to the parent or school.
- **College:** Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the student.

### Instructor Approach

- **High School:** Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.
- **College:** Professors are typically open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

## Parental Role

### Access

- **High School:** Parent has access to student records and can participate in the accommodations process.
- **College:** Parent does not have access to students' records without the student's written consent.

### Advocacy

- **High School:** Parent advocates for student.
- **College:** Student advocates for self.

## Instruction

### Modifications

- **High School:** Teachers may modify curriculum and/or alter curriculum pace of assignments.
- **College:** Professors are not required to modify instruction or alter assignment deadlines.

### Student Review

- **High School:** Students seldom need to read anything more than once; sometimes, listening in class is enough.
- **College:** Students need to review class notes, texts, and materials regularly to do well in a class.

## Grades and Exams

### Format and Grading Changes

- **High School:** IEP and 504 Plan may include modifications to test format and/or grading.
- **College:** Grading and exam format changes are not generally available.
  - Accommodations for HOW exams are given are available and supported by disability documentation.

## **Exam Frequency**

- **High School:** Testing is frequent and covers small portions of material.
- **College:** Testing is typically infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.

## **Make-Up Tests**

- **High School:** Make-up tests are often available.
- **College:** Make-up tests are seldom an option.

## **Instructor Reminders**

- **High School:** Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.
- **College:** Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the syllabus (course outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when things are due, and how you will be graded.

# **Study Responsibilities**

## **Tutoring Services**

- **High School:** Tutoring and study support may be a service provided by an IEP or 504 plan.
- **College:** Tutoring does not fall under college disability services. However, students are encouraged to seek out this resource on their own, as it is available to all students.

## **Time Management**

- **High School:** Your time and assignments are structured by others.
- **College:** You manage your own time and complete assignments independently.

## **Time Spent Outside of Class**

- **High School:** You may study outside of class as little as 0 - 2 hours a week.
- **College:** You need to study at least 2 - 3 hours outside of class for each class hour.