

Classroom Tips

Attend all classes:

- Arrive on time.
- Do not leave early.

Be prepared:

- Read and process text before class—formulate questions to have clarified.
- Review previous notes.
- Do problems, brainstorming, outlining.

Sit close to the front:

- Listen actively.
- Take notes.
- Ask questions.

Seek assistance:

- Visit instructor during office hours with questions/concerns.
- Get peer tutoring assistance.
- Get a study buddy.
- Go to Learning centers—reading, writing, or math.

Hand in work on time and do not miss exams:

- Have work college-level ready to hand in on due date.
- Do not use excuses to rationalize lack of preparation.

Be realistic, use a calendar, and follow course syllabi:

- Schedule assignments, tests, projects.
- Schedule study time—2 hours of study for each hour in class.
- Honestly account for family, social life, work, class, study, and transportation.
- A 15-credit semester load = a full-time job.

Preparation Tips

- Take 4 years of high school math.
- Take college preparatory, enriched, and honors courses.
- Take elective courses that develop background knowledge such as sociology, psychology, geography, anthropology, philosophy, biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Develop strong communication skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Take college preparatory courses in critical reading and study skills.

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College Readiness: Understanding the Difference Between High School and College



COLLEGE SUCCESS!

Successful college students seriously pursue the understanding of ideas, cultivate a spirit of curiosity, ask questions, and maintain a positive attitude towards learning.

Student Responsibility

HIGH SCHOOL "TEACHER SUPPORTED"	COLLEGE "STUDENT DIRECTED"
High schools and teachers require attendance.	<i>Successful students attend all classes although attendance may not be required.</i>
Teachers remind students of assignments, tests, & make up work.	<i>Students complete assignments & take tests on time.</i>
Teachers tell students what to learn.	<i>Successful students determine what to learn and know how to study using their own learning styles.</i>
Teachers... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize main ideas. Outline notes. Provide study guides. Formulate questions. 	<i>Successful students...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use effective textbook reading skills to learn content. Take effective notes, & study them regularly. Create their own study guides, maps, and graphic organizers. Generate questions, & answers from varying perspectives.
Teachers guide research and the location of information.	<i>Successful students possess library and internet research skills.</i>
Teachers give students supplementary information.	<i>Successful students seek background information or supplementary resources.</i>
Teachers monitor student performance by providing grade sheets.	<i>Successful students monitor their own performance and set improvement goals.</i>
Teachers discipline inappropriate talking in class.	<i>Teachers do not tolerate inappropriate talking in class.</i>
Teachers usually require less outside studying than in college.	<i>Successful students study 2-3 hours for each one hour of class time.</i>
Teachers provide in-class study time and students often study with many distractions.	<i>Successful students use study areas on campus and create a study area at home.</i>
Others schedule a student's time for classes, sports, and work.	<i>Successful students must develop personal time management systems for college classes, study time, work, and social life.</i>
Students often choose elective courses based on interest.	<i>Successful students choose courses based on program, degree, or transfer requirements.</i>

Academic Environment

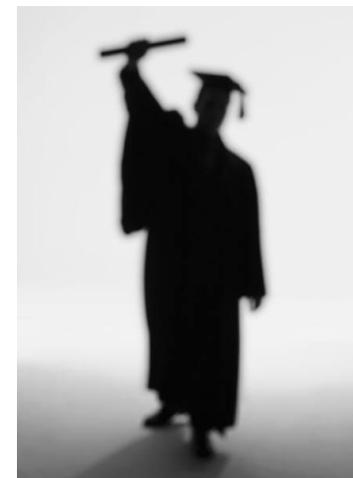
HIGH SCHOOL "TEACHER SUPPORTED"	COLLEGE "STUDENT DIRECTED"
Teachers give short lectures that often duplicate reading assignments.	<i>Teachers present extended lectures that supplement assigned readings.</i>
High school classes are usually limited to 30 or fewer students.	<i>College classes are usually larger with 40-100 plus students.</i>
High school classes meet daily.	<i>College classes meet 2-3 times per week.</i>
Teachers provide necessary background knowledge.	<i>Teachers assume students have background knowledge and skills.</i>
Teachers focus student learning with questions.	<i>Teachers expect students to generate questions.</i>
Teachers cover all content in class.	<i>Students are responsible for all material whether or not it is presented in class.</i>
Teachers provide organization.	<i>Students must have systems of organization for assignments, notes, handouts (notebooks/folders).</i>

Resources & Support

HIGH SCHOOL "TEACHER SUPPORTED"	COLLEGE "STUDENT DIRECTED"
Teachers often use T/F, multiple-choice, and short answer test formats.	<i>Teachers give complex exam questions requiring analysis, application, and synthesis of ideas and theories using multiple-choice and essay formats.</i>
Teachers give frequent tests and provide make-up tests and retakes.	<i>Teachers give fewer tests (2-3 per semester) and generally do not allow for make-ups or retakes.</i>
Grades are based on quality, completion, and effort given to assignments.	<i>Grades reflect the quality of the product and adherence to college-level thinking and writing.</i>
Teachers offer extra-credit opportunities to improve grades.	<i>Teachers may not offer extra-credit.</i>

Resources & Support

HIGH SCHOOL "TEACHER SUPPORTED"	COLLEGE "STUDENT DIRECTED"
Students have daily contact with teachers and receive regular feedback.	<i>Successful students have limited contact with teachers and must seek feedback.</i>
Teachers and parents direct academic accommodations and services for students with special needs.	<i>Successful students seek out academic accommodations and special assistance.</i>
Teachers provide extra help.	<i>Successful students seek out peer tutoring and further academic assistance during instructor office hours.</i>
Friends and family support students.	<i>Students may not be in contact with a family support system and need to create a new support system.</i>
Teachers usually give structured assignments with explicit directions.	<i>Successful students organize and interpret assignments and conduct research independently.</i>



The conceptual framework for this brochure is based on the work of many outstanding educators in the field of developmental education.