

Making the Transition

Comparing High School to College

High School	College
Teacher/Student Contact Teacher/student contact is closer and more frequent (5 days per week). Very little responsibility is placed on the student to attend class - they will attend class because they are already at school.	Teacher/Student Contact Faculty members are available during their office hours or by appointment. Students are responsible for meeting with their professors. Students must choose to attend class.
Competition and Grades Academic competition is not as strong. Good grades can be obtained with minimum effort.	Competition and Grades Academic competition is much stronger. Minimum effort may produce poor grades. The student's perception that he/she is giving maximum effort may not result in a top grade.
Status Students establish a personal status in academic and social activities based on family and community factors.	Status Students can build their status as they wish; high school status can be repeated or changed.
Counseling and Dependence Students can rely on parents, teachers and counselors to help make decisions and give advice. Students must abide by parents' boundaries and restrictions.	Counseling and Dependence Students rely on themselves; they see the results of making their own decisions. It is their responsibility to seek advice as needed. Students set their own restrictions.
Motivation Students get stimulation to achieve or participate from parents, teachers and counselors.	Motivation Students supply their own motivation to their work and activities.
Freedom Students' freedom is limited. Parents will often help students out of crisis, if one occurs.	Freedom Students have much more freedom. Students must accept responsibility for their own actions.
Value Judgments Students often make value judgments based on parental values. Many of their value judgments are made for them.	Value Judgments Students have the opportunity to develop their own opinions and values. To be successful, students must be willing to learn about and respect differences.