

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY?

## 1. Academics

- Instruction mainly by lecture
- Readings do not duplicate the lectures
- Classes meet less frequently
- Assignments are less structured and less concrete
- Much more emphasis on theory
- Discussions are open ended and allow for different conclusions
- Students are held responsible for having prerequisites completed
- Larger number of students
- Many more social distractions

## 2. Grading

- Harder work is required for all grades - poor quality work is failed
- Semester grades often determined by a small number of evaluations
- Most assignments are research essays
- Writing and library skills are very important
- Exams are usually essay format and questions hard to predict
- Student progress is not closely monitored by professors

## 3. Knowledge Acquisition

- Professors teach their subjects not their students (few learning suggestions)
- Relatively few visual or study aids provided
- Excellent study skills is essential
- Effective and efficient reading skills are essential
- Attending class is critical, but voluntary
- Studying is assumed (2-3 hours for each classroom hour)

## 4. Student Support

- Students usually lose the close support of family and friends
- Much less contact with professors than with teachers
- The environment is very impersonal
- Students given very little individual feedback
- There is a considerable amount of academic competition among students

## 5. Stress

- The workload is heavy and the pace is fast
- Typically 5 courses are completed in 14 weeks
- Students are independent, but held accountable for their learning
- Grades and transcripts are increasingly important
- Many have the pressures of employment and financial responsibilities
- Most students have one or more "significant others" to accommodate
- Most students are unclear about their career and life goals
- Most students are also looking after their food, clothing, and shelter needs for the first time

## 6. Responsibility

- Students must determine when they need help and know how to get it
- There are many choices (decisions)
- Students manage their own time
- Self-evaluation and monitoring are exceptionally important
- Students must plan and attain their own goals
- Independent reading and studying is essential
- Interest in learning must be supplied by the student
- Motivation to succeed must be controlled by the student