

HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE

The transition from high school to college presents a number of opportunities and challenges that can be both rewarding and confusing to new students.

It is important for new students to be aware of the differences between high school and college, so that they can succeed in their new learning environment.

The following table outlines some of the differences your child can expect in his or her first months at Dawson College.

Personal Freedom

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
High school is mandatory and it's free.	College is voluntary and there are costs involved.
What a student does with his/her time is dictated by others.	Students manage their own time.
Students need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.	Students decide for themselves if they want to participate in extracurricular activities or which ones to participate in. (Although they should be careful not to take on too much, especially in the first semester.)

In Class

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Although many teachers do not formally take attendance, they are still likely to know whether students are there or not. (In some cases, such as Physical Education classes, attendance is strictly controlled.)
Class schedules are rigid and are arranged for the students.	Class times vary throughout the week and students arrange their own schedule in consultation with academic advisers.

In Class (cont'd)	
Textbooks are provided at little or no cost.	Students need to budget several hundred dollars for books for supplies.
Teachers check homework.	Teachers may not necessarily check homework, but do expect students to perform the same tasks on tests.
Teachers will approach students that need help.	Teachers are open and helpful, but expect students to initiate contact if they require additional help.
Teachers will provide class notes for students when they are absent.	Teachers expect that students will arrange to get notes from missed classes from classmates.

Studying	
HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Two hours per week may be sufficient time for a student to study on his or her own.	Each <i>course</i> might require 2 to 3 hours per week of study on student's own.
Students read short assignments that are often discussed and re-taught in class.	Students may have substantial reading and writing to do per course that may not necessarily be addressed directly in class.
Teachers arrange test dates so they do not interfere with students' other activities.	Tests are scheduled independently of other courses, events and activities.

Graduating	
HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
High school ensures students meet all graduation requirements.	Graduation requirements are complex. Students must figure out what applies to them. (Academic advisers and career counsellors can help.)