HOW IS COLLEGE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

FOLLOWING THE RULES IN HIGH SCHOOL	CHOOSING RESPONSIBLY IN COLLEGE

* High school is

* You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your adviser. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.

don't.	each semester for exams.
* Classes generally have no more than 35 students.	* Classes may number 100 students or more.
* You may study outside class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.	* You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.

students.	
* Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	* Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
* Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.	* Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or they may expect to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
* Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.	* Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
* Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.	* Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
* Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	* Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

amounts of material.	cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
* Makeup tests are often available.	* Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
* Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.	* Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
* Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.	* Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.

* Guiding principle: Mastery is usually

final grade.	expected--but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades.
* You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.	* You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard-- typically a 2.0 or C.
* Guiding principle: Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."	* Guiding principle: Though "good-faith effort" is important in regard to the professor's willingness to help you good results, it will not for results in the grading process.

HOW TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Take control of your own education: think of yourself as a scholar.
Get to know your professors; they are your single greatest resource.
Be assertive. Create your own support systems, and seek help when you realize you may need it.
Take control of your time. Plan ahead to satisfy academic obligations and make room for everything else.
Stretch yourself: enroll in at least one course that really challenges you.
Make thoughtful decisions: don't take a course just to satisfy a requirement, and don't drop any course too quickly.
Think beyond the moment: set goals for the semester, the year, your college career.