

Major Differences between High School and College

HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher/Student Contact – Contact closer and more frequent (5 days a week)

Competition/Grades – Academic Competition is not as strong; good grades can often be obtained with minimum effort.

Status – Students establish a personal status in academic and social activities based on family and community factors.

Counseling/Dependence – Students can rely on parents, teachers and counselors to help make decisions and give advice. Students must abide by parents' boundaries and restrictions.

Motivation – Students get stimulation to achieve or participate from parents, teachers, and counselors.

Freedom – Students' freedom is limited. Parents will often help students out of a crisis should one arise.

Distractions – There are distractions from school, but these are partially controlled by school and home.

Value Judgments – Students often make value judgments based on parental values; thus, many of their value judgments are made for them.

COLLEGE

Teacher/Student Contact – Faculty is available during office hours (only a few hours a week) and by appointment to address students' concerns.

Competition/Grades – Academic competition is much stronger; minimum effort may produce poor grades.

Status – Students can build their status as they wish; high school status can be repeated or changed.

Counseling/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 apply their own motivation to their work and activities as they wish.

Freedom – Students have much more freedom. Students must accept responsibility for their own actions.

Distractions – The opportunity for more distractions exist. Time management to students will become more important.

Value Judgments – Students have the opportunity to see the world through their own eyes and develop their own opinions and values.

The preceding was an excerpt from *Helping Your First-Year College Student Succeed: A Guide for Parents* by Richard Mullendore and Cathie Hatch, in conjunction with the National Orientation Directors Association. Copies of this book may be ordered from the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, University of South Carolina, 1629 Pendleton Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208. Telephone: 803-777-6029. It is especially helpful to those parents sending their first student off to college.