

# 1 Classes and assignments



## HIGH SCHOOL

## COLLEGE

Teachers follow the textbook. Assignments, quizzes and tests tend to come directly from it.	Lectures may not follow the textbook, but students are still responsible for what's in there as well as what's covered in class.
Reading assignments are usually paired with an evaluation (quiz, test, paper).	Students might not be tested on reading done at the start of the semester until late in the semester or even on the final exam.
Teachers regularly remind students of assignment due dates. Time is spent in class reviewing before tests.	Professors may not remind students of due dates and may spend little or no time on review. Students need to manage their own progress by following the syllabus.
The emphasis is on learning information/memorizing facts and mastering rubrics (in writing, for example).	There is greater emphasis on theory and application of concepts.
A student's grade comes from regular quizzes and tests, plus points earned from completed homework and class participation.	Final grade may depend on only two or three big tests or projects. The professor may or may not consider attendance, attitude and effort.

# 2 Expectations outside of the classroom



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<b>CLASS TIME vs. FREE TIME</b>	Students spend 6-7 hours a day in class, five days a week.	Students only spend 12-15 hours per week in the classroom. The extra 20+ "free" hours mean that they are free to schedule their own study time, not that they don't have anything to do during that time.
<b>CLASS WORK</b>	Most learning takes place during the school day, with 1-3 hours of homework daily.	Students do most of their coursework outside of class — on average 2 hours for every hour spent in the classroom. In other words, a student carrying 15 credits (15 classroom hours) should be spending an additional 30 hours a week on assignments and class preparation.
<b>HELP</b>	Students who need extra help may be required to attend tutoring sessions. Parents are kept in the loop through conferences.	Students are responsible for recognizing when they need help, and taking advantage of the resources available.

# 3 Relationships with teachers



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There is daily contact with teachers. Typical class size is 20-30 students.	Students may see a professor only a couple of times a week and some classes are large lectures with 100+ students. Most professors want to get to know their students better and help them succeed, but it's the student's responsibility to make this happen by attending office hours, etc.
The teacher is your student's main point of contact for the class, although sometimes there's a student teacher.	Some classes have Teaching Assistants (TAs) who run discussion sections, labs and study sessions. These upper-level students are knowledgeable and approachable.