

High School vs. PLU



Personal Freedom in High School

High school is mandatory and probably free
Other people structure your time
Parents and others guide moral decisions
Others guide appropriate behavior
You are a minor

High School Classes

You go from one class directly to another
You spend 30 hours a week in class
A class lasts for 5 to 10 months
Your school day looks full
Doing homework is the last part of your day
Homework is highly structured
Homework is collected and graded

High School Teachers

Carefully monitor attendance
Remind you of incomplete work
Approach you if you seem to need help
Are often available to talk before and after class
Provide you with what you miss if absent
Follow a textbook
Teach to the intellectual middle of the class
Write key info on board or give handouts

Studying in High School

Study an hour or so before a test
Readings are thoroughly discussed in class
You know what to expect on a test

Tests in High School

Testing is frequent and covers one section
Make-up tests are easily available
The teacher reminds you to make up a test
Review sessions are routine
Tests ask you to give back facts

Grades in High School

Everything you do contributes to your grade
Good homework grades can save you
Extra credit can help raise a grade
If grades improve, you get the better grade
You graduate if you pass required courses

EFFORT COUNTS

Personal Freedom at PLU

College is voluntary and very expensive
You structure your time
You make your own moral decisions
You determine your own behavior
You are an adult

PLU Classes

You may have hours between classes
You spend about 15 hours a week in class
A class lasts 14 weeks (or in January, a month)
Your day looks like you have lots of free time
Class preparation is an all-day activity
Study is both assigned and self-directed reading
Assigned work is usually not collected or corrected

PLU Faculty

Expect regular class attendance of all students
Require you to do all coursework regardless of absence
Wait for you to ask for help
Are available during office hours
Expect you to ask for missed assignments
Might follow a book. Lectures are equally important
Teach at a more challenging level
You must figure out what's important/what you need to do

Studying in College

Study two or three hours per day for each hour of class
Readings may not be discussed in class
Professors say "know everything" about material assigned

Tests in College

Tests occur every 4-6 weeks and cover a lot of material
Make-up tests are seldom an option
You must take initiative for a possible make-up
Review sessions are rare
Exams require analysis, synthesis, and facts

Grades in College

Papers and exams determine grades
Homework carries little or no weight
Extra credit rarely is offered
Your grade is an average of all exams/papers
You graduate if GPA meets requirements

RESULTS COUNT

Adapted from handout created by Services for Students with Disabilities office at PLU

*This handout is provided by the Academic Assistance Center, Library 124
(253)535-7518, www.plu.edu/aac*