

# Succeeding in College



## **Horseheads High School**

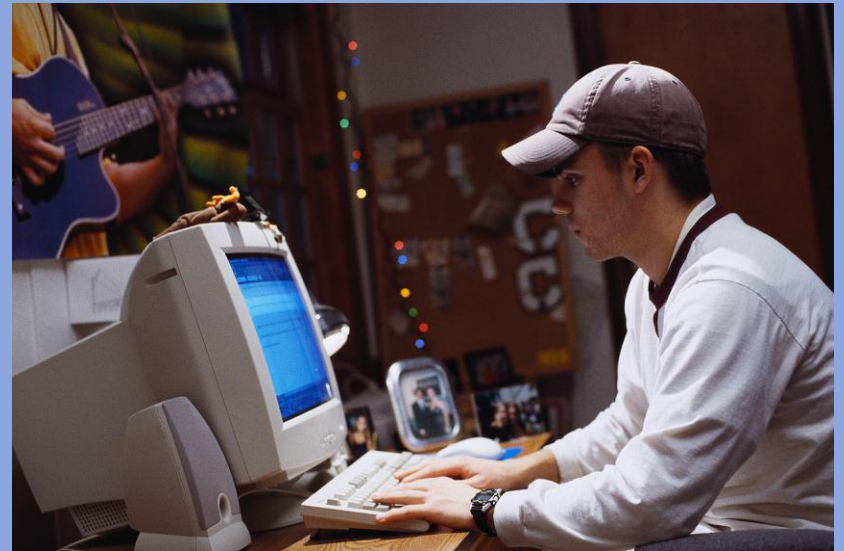
Developed by the Cheektowaga MTP

Adapted from the College Consortium and Disability Advocates

# College vs. High School

There are many differences between attending College and High School

- Academic Environment
- How you are graded
- How you learn
- Stress in College
- Workload in College
- Supports in College



# Academic Environment

- **High School**

- Constant contact with teachers
- Constant feedback on assignments
- Teacher directs lesson
- Learn most things in class with some homework
- School gives you textbooks



- **College**

- Little or no 1:1 contact
- Little or no feedback
- Lesson is lecture- not interactive
- Lecture in class, reading and homework done by self
- You BUY your textbooks

# Academic Environment

- **High School**

- Class every day
- Class semester is 20 weeks
- Only use library for big projects
- Teachers will review what you forgot from last year
- Classes are with 25-30 other students



- **College**

- Class 3x week
- Class semester is only 15 weeks
- Use library all the time
- You are responsible for everything you learned in High School
- Class size range up to 400, can be on-line or self-learning based

# Grading

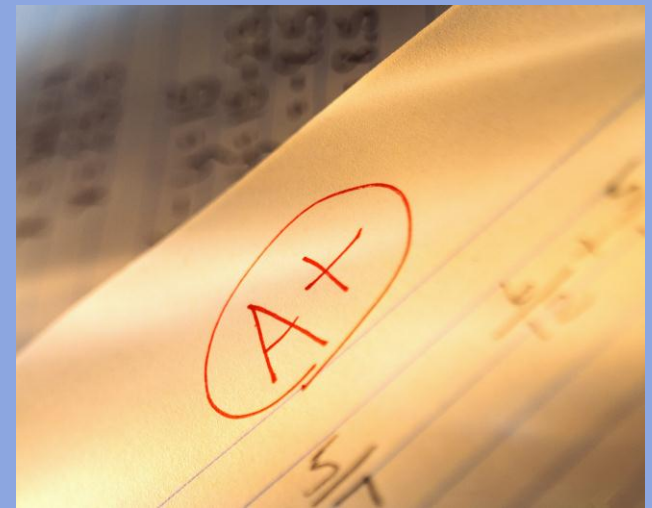
- **High School**

- Grading is usually 50-100
- Many assignments and quizzes make up semester grade



- **College**

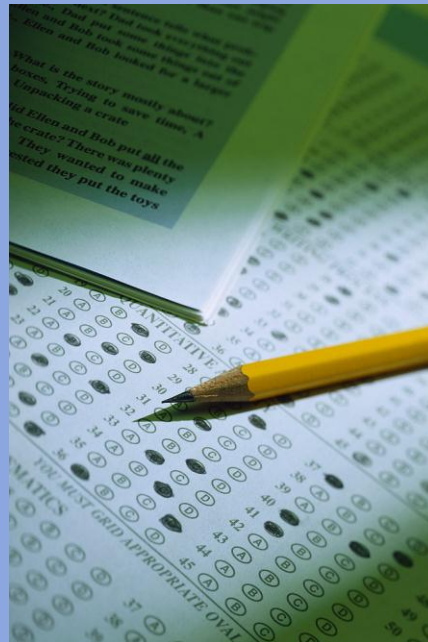
- Grading is A,B,C; C is average; grades turn into 0 - 4.0 scale
- Only 2-3 tests or papers make up grade



# Grading

- **High School**

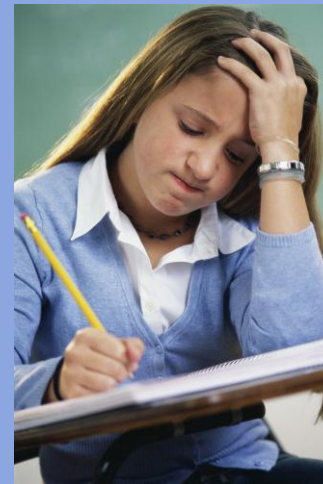
- Teachers give practice tests & review tests
- Tests are multiple choice
- Papers are 2-3 pages



- **College**

- Exam questions are hard to predict & no review
- Essay tests are more common
- Papers are usually

around 10 pages long



# Learning Differences

- **High School**

- Teachers reinforce learning
- Teachers review articles and discuss
- Teachers review main ideas
- Notes are given
- Teacher will help if you need help



- **College**

- You are responsible for learning
- Critical thinking and writing responses
- You need to figure out main idea
- You need to take good notes yourself
- You need to ask for help yourself



# Learning Differences

- **High School**

- Material usually reviewed so you can get it if you miss it
- Daydreaming...
- Studying is important but ideas are talked about in class



- **College**

- Material is not reviewed- you are responsible for catching up
- More important to pay attention
- Studying is more important because not all ideas are talked about in class



# Stress in College

- **High School**

- Slower paced
- Workload controlled
- Told what to focus on and what to learn
- Everything timed and planned toward student success



- **College**

- More fast paced
- Heavier workload
- Figure out yourself what to learn
- Expected to time manage classes, job, studying, extracurricular, and social life yourself

# Responsibility in College

- **High School**

- Detention or Suspension for bad behavior
- Taught whatever teacher teaches you
- Teacher tells you what to do and what to read each night
- Teachers talk to your parents



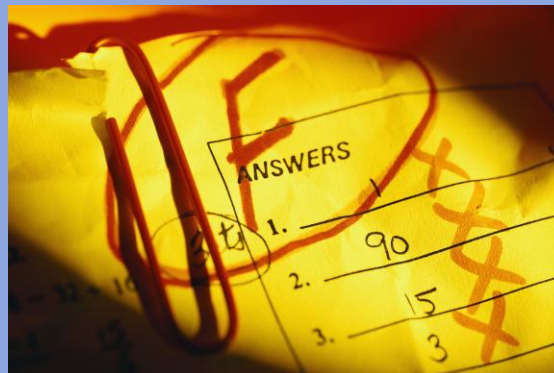
- **College**

- Code of Conduct to be followed- can be kicked out for a fight
- Need to choose classes that fit your curriculum
- Get syllabus in first class and expected to manage yourself
- Teachers will NOT talk to parents

# Responsibility in College

- **High School**

- Teachers expect certain grades and give extra credit
- Free (you don't pay)
- Teacher reminds you to do your work and motivates you



- **College**

- You make your own expectations- if you fail, then you fail (no extra credit)
- Responsible for paying for college
- If you don't do your work, then it's not done (and you fail)

# Support in College

- **High School**

- Resource Room or after school help
- Counseling if you get into fight
- Mostly same students and class size
- Same clubs/activities
- Reminders, morning announcements, etc



- **College**

- NO Resource Room
- Need to seek your own help
- Kicked out if you get into fight
- More students and lots of new faces
- Lots of new clubs
- Self-Advocacy- YOU ARE AN ADULT

# Support in College

- If you have accommodations in High School, you may need them in college too
- **Academic Adjustments** available in College are
  - Reduced course load
  - Substituting courses
  - Providing note-takers and/or recording device
  - Extended Test Time
  - Alternative Test location
  - Computer Software to assist learning (ex ReadPlease)



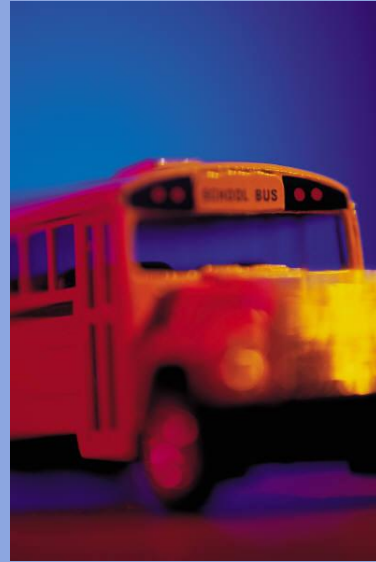
# Support in College

- Your college does not know that you have a disability! However, if you want an Academic Adjustment, you need to tell them!
- If you need an Academic Adjustment, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to visit the Office of Disabilities at your college
- You should request an Academic Adjustment in the beginning of the semester, not after you find out that you are failing

# Support in College

- You will most likely be required to provide proof of your disability
- Your High School IEP or 504 plan will be helpful, but many Colleges require a form filled out by a Doctor
- If you are approved for an Academic Adjustment, the school cannot charge you for the adjustment; however, they are not required to provide personal tutors or other AA's that cost money

# Campus Life



- **High School**

- Bus picks you up
- 1 or 2 cafeterias
- Nurse's office if you're sick
- Sign in and out of school
- School closings on TV or radio
- Bookstore small, buy necessities

- **College**

- Own transportation
- Many places to eat
- Go home, clinic for emergencies only
- Just come and go, no keeping track
- Classes may be cancelled without school being closed
- Bookstore is huge, books, clothes, food, necessities, etc.



# Campus Life

- **High School**

- School activities chaperoned
- Other activities on your own- going to the movies is just going to the movies, going out is going out, etc.
- Events in class or gym mandatory (ex. Pep rally)



- **College**

- School activities not chaperoned
- Many activities sponsored by Student Affairs –they bring movies to campus, shuttles to go out, etc.
- Events are free and optional

# Dorm Life

- College Dormitories are similar to hotels- long halls with individual rooms
- Typically there is 1 or 2 bathrooms on each floor for everyone to share
- There may be 1 kitchen in the building and a few washers and dryers that everyone shares
- Typical dorms mean sharing a room with 1, 2, or 3 other people!

# Dorm Life

- Many dorms have rules against alcohol, visitors, and noise levels and times
- Rooms are small and there is not a lot of room for personal belongings  
(especially if you have roommates!)



# Conclusion

- College requires a lot more work and discipline than High School
- Help is available if you ask for it
- You are responsible for your own actions
- You are treated like an adult and expected to act like one

# Any Questions

