

Important Considerations for Dual Enrollment Students

Participation in college-level courses through Dual Enrollment (DE) requires a high level of maturity, responsibility, and academic readiness, regardless of a student's grade level. Whether you are in 6th grade or 12th grade, the expectations and standards are the same for all students entering the DE program.

DE courses are part of your permanent college transcript and will affect eligibility for scholarships, financial aid, and admissions therefore this decision should not be taken lightly. Giving your best performance is important. To succeed, students must manage time, meet deadlines, and advocate for themselves. Success depends on discipline, initiative, and accountability, not just intelligence. Students are encouraged to ask questions and use SPC resources to support their growth and college experience.

Some Differences Between High School & College

Personal Freedom in High School	Personal Freedom in College
High school is mandatory and free (unless you choose other options).	College is voluntary and can be expensive outside of dual enrollment.
Your time is usually structured by others.	You must have good time management skills to be successful in a college course.
You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and guide you in setting priorities.	You are responsible for knowing all deadlines and are accountable for what you do or don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.

High School Teachers	College Professors
Teachers check your completed homework.	It is your responsibility to know all assignment due dates and to submit them on time.
Teachers may remind you of incomplete work.	Professors are not likely to accept late work.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need help.	Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect students to initiate contact if assistance is needed.
Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.	Professors expect you to attend their scheduled office hours or email them with your concerns.
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.

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.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	Professors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus. The syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
There are opportunities to request a student/parent conference.	Students are expected to self-advocate, and parents should not reach out to professors.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Even if professors don't officially take attendance, they're usually aware of who shows up and who doesn't.

Some Differences Between High School & College

Studying in High School	Studying in College
You may not need to spend a lot of time studying or completing homework outside of the classroom.	You should plan to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside class for each hour in class. (Example, 3 credit hour class = 6–9 hours of outside study).
You often need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to know about them.	You need to review class notes and text material regularly. It is often expected for you to read the material prior to class.
You might be expected to read assignments that are then discussed and often re-taught in class.	You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class

Test in High School	Test in College
Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	Testing is infrequent and in many cases is cumulative, covering large amounts of material. A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in the semester.
Makeup tests are often available	Makeup tests are seldom an option and at the professor's discretion.
Teachers often rearrange test dates to avoid conflicts with school events.	Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
Teachers frequently provide 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.
Mastery is often seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you.	Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or solve new kinds of problems. Do not expect to see test questions and problems identical to the ones discussed in class or previously assigned.

Grades in High School	Grades in College
Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when tests grades are low.	Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade. Check your course syllabus for grading policies.
Extra credit projects and test corrections are often available to help you raise your grade.	Extra credit and test corrections are not generally available to help you raise your overall grade.
Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.	Watch out for your first tests. These are usually “wakeup calls” to let you know what is expected, but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. If you do not do well on your first tests, immediately contact your professor and/or advisor.
You may graduate if you have passed all required classes with at least a “D” and maintained a certain average GPA.	You may graduate only if your average in courses meets the departmental requirements. A “C” is considered passing in General Education and Major Courses.