

Handout 1—College vs. high school

This handout describes some basic differences between college and high school and why college is important for teens and young adults with HFA/AS.

College	High School
Professors have classes ranging from 20 to 200 students—less individual attention	Teachers have classes of 20–35 students—more individual attention
You will be responsible for most decisions	Parents and teachers provide direct guidance with decisions
You choose your classes	Classes are mostly chosen for you
You may have several hours between classes	Classes run on a consecutive schedule—one follows right after another
You will have to pay for books and other basics	Books and other basics are provided
You are expected to know due dates of assignments, and professors will not always collect and check your work	Teachers will remind you when assignments are due and will check and collect assignments
Many classes are based solely on exams, which often cover a lot of material	Classes are based on several aspects besides exams, such as participation, in-class assignments, etc.
Disability services will only contact professors if given permission from the student	Teachers know in advance if one their students has a disability and what they will need
Student with disabilities must self-advocate to receive accommodations in class.	Teachers know in advance if one their students has a disability and what they will need

Reasons why college is important:

- College trains students to think critically, improve knowledge, and acquire skills needed for a career
- With a college degree, you improve your chances of getting a job with a higher salary
- You will also learn how to become independent, improve social skills, and gain experience