

PREPARATION IN HIGH SCHOOL.

- **Forget that easy A.** Enroll in challenging courses (e.g., honors, dual enrollment, AP). The more demanding the better.
- **Take elective courses that will help you to develop skills** in problem solving, research, technical and/or technological literacy or analytical reasoning.
- **Take elective courses that will sharpen your communication skills** (i.e., reading, writing, public speaking). Don't forget about developing fluency in a second language too.
- **Forget about "senior slide."** Take a challenging math class and a lab science class as well as a third or fourth year of foreign language in your senior year.
- **When coursework becomes difficult, rev it up!** Find a study buddy, join a study group, see your instructor for help -- sooner rather than later.
- **Get advice from former college students** at: www.mycollegesuccessstory.com/success-stories/. (e.g., "The rule I lived by was plan your month, schedule your week, and prioritize your day." Michaela H's Academic Success Story)

"Your future depends on many things, but mostly on you."

~Frank Tyger

PREPARATION IN COLLEGE.

Be there physically and mentally.

- Allow time for transportation and parking.
- Show up early and stay for the entire class.
- No sleeping or texting during class.

Be prepared.

- Read each course syllabus and review it
- Read text prior to class; prepare & ask questions!
- Be an active reader: highlight text, develop "Mind Maps," take notes, etc.
- Review class and text notes before an exam.
- Plan ahead for long-term assignments.

Get in the game.

- Sit as close to the **front** of class as possible.
- Take notes during lectures.
- Get involved in clubs, college groups & activities.

Don't go it alone.

- Visit instructors during office hours for extra help.
- Find a study buddy/tutor for help with challenging assignments & skill development.
- Visit the college's counseling center for personal or social guidance and support.

Assume responsibility.

- Turn your assignments in on time.
- Don't make excuses for poor attendance, preparation or performance.
- Email instructors in advance if an *emergency* arises. (Break-ups, vacations, concerts, sporting events are NOT emergencies.)

Manage your time.

- Use your cell phone, calendar or online tools to remember all due dates (assignments, tests, projects, study groups, etc.)
- Schedule study time. (Rule of thumb: 2 hours of studying for each hour in class.)
- Schedule time realistically to balance work, family, friends and yourself!

Taking 15 credits is a full-time job!

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS?



Today's preparation

determines tomorrow's

achievement.

~ Dr. Robert Schuller

The Massachusetts CVTE Linkage Initiative is grateful to the Minnesota Association for Developmental Education for permission to adapt its College Readiness Brochure found at www.mnade.org.

LOCUS OF CONTROL

High School is Teacher-Driven	College is Student-Driven
Teachers and school administrators <u>require</u> attendance.	<i>Successful students attend all classes even when attendance is not required.</i>
Teachers remind students of assignments, tests dates and make-up work.	<i>Successful students follow their syllabi, complete assignments and prepare for tests without reminders.</i>
Teachers tell students what to learn.	<i>Successful students are curious; they pursue knowledge.</i>
Teachers... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review content; provide study guides; formulate the questions <u>for you!</u> 	Successful students... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> take lots of notes and use strategic textbook-reading skills; create study guides, content summaries and maps; generate their own questions and pursue the answers.
Teachers direct research projects by providing source lists and library time.	<i>Successful students know how to conduct research and use the library and the Internet independently and appropriately.</i>
Teachers may contact parents about a student's performance.	<i>College faculty and personnel communicate with students, not parents (unless the student gives permission otherwise).</i>
Teachers may discipline or ignore inappropriate language and behavior in class.	<i>Instructors will not tolerate inappropriate language or behavior in class.</i>
Teachers assign homework.	<i>Successful students study 2-3 hours for each hour of class time without being required to do so.</i>
Teachers may provide time during class to study for an exam or work on a project.	<i>Successful students utilize campus study areas and/or personal study area in their dorm/home on their own time.</i>

CONTROL (cont.)

High School is Teacher Driven	College is Student Driven
School counselors and/or parents schedule students' classes, extracurricular activities and work.	<i>Successful students develop a time management system for scheduling college classes, study time, work and social life.</i>
Students choose elective courses based on difficulty level, teacher preference or personal interest.	<i>Successful students choose elective courses based on degree or transfer requirements as well as labor market demands.</i>

LOCUS OF SUPPORT

High School Is Collaborative	College is Self Regulated
Students have daily contact with their teachers.	<i>Student-contact with instructors is often limited to scheduled office hours.</i>
Students receive regular guidance and feedback from teachers and counselors.	<i>Successful students must seek feedback and guidance from peers, tutors and instructors.</i>
Teachers and parents identify students in need of academic accommodations and services.	<i>When necessary, successful students self identify and seek accommodations early.</i>
Teachers and classroom aides provide extra help when they see it's needed.	<i>Successful students ask for help and access free tutoring and academic support when it's needed.</i>
School counselors, family and friends encourage students to succeed.	<i>Successful students encourage themselves and create a support system on campus.</i>
Students are reluctant to stand out by employing alternative learning methods.	<i>Successful students know and utilize their preferred learning methods and discuss it with their instructors.</i>
Textbooks, course materials and lunches are generally supplied by the school.	<i>Students must purchase their course materials (or access lending mechanisms via the library) and plan their meals.</i>

STRUCTURE & FOCUS

High School is Student Focused	College is Content Focused
Teachers give short lectures that review and reinforce reading assignments.	<i>Instructors supplement assigned reading through extended lectures.</i>
High school classes are usually limited to 30 or fewer students.	<i>College classes are often large with 40-200 students. (This varies from college to college.)</i>
Most high school classes meet daily.	<i>Most college classes meet 2-3 times per week.</i>
Teachers provide necessary background knowledge.	<i>Instructors expect students have background knowledge.</i>
Teachers cover <u>all</u> content in class & review content prior to testing.	<i>Successful students take responsibility for all content per the syllabus whether or not it was covered in class</i>
Grades are multi-faceted: tests, quizzes, participation, class assignments, homework, make-up work and extra credit work.	<i>Grades are based largely upon mid term and final exams and research papers or projects. There is rarely an opportunity for extra credit or make-up.</i>
Teachers provide structure and organization tools.	<i>Successful students have a system of organization for managing assignments, notes and handouts.</i>
Teachers give structured assignments with explicit directions.	<i>Successful students evaluate assignments, discuss them with peers and ask for clarification when in doubt.</i>
Teachers often use T/F, multiple-choice and short answer test formats.	<i>Instructors often give exam questions that require analysis, application and synthesis of ideas and theories.</i>
Project grades may reflect student effort and motivation.	<i>Project grades reflect the quality of the final product and adherence to college-level standards.</i>