

Are You Ready for College?

As part of a unique collaboration between Concordia Academy-Roseville and Concordia University-St. Paul, CA students have the opportunity to complete college work during the regular school day on the campus of Concordia Academy. This collaboration affords CA students both tremendous opportunity and responsibility. The following is meant to help students better understand the difference between high school and college classes and ultimately answer the question of whether they are or are not ready for college.

High School & College

	High School	College
Rules and Responsibility	You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.	You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.
Taking Classes	You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.	It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from this assumption.
The Environment	High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.	College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.
Tests and Exams	Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.	Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.
Grades	Effort counts. Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."	Results count. Though "good-faith effort" is important in regard to the professor's willingness to help you achieve good results, it will not substitute for results in the grading process.

Taking College Courses

- This is the beginning of a college education transcript.
- Typically courses take place in a 15 week semester.
- Requires approximately 3 hours of study time per credit weekly outside of class.
- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
- Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus regularly on your own; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
- Dropping and Withdrawing from courses.
- PSEO credits transfer to most four year colleges and universities.

A few myths to consider...

- PSEO courses don't count on my official college transcript or I can change my transcript when I get to college.
- My senior year doesn't count. Once a college accepts me, it's okay if my grades slip in the last semester.
- Don't be fooled by the setting here, it's a college course.
- You don't have to attend class, "it's college!"

Am I Ready For College?

Use the scale below to indicate how often each statement applies to you. Place the number corresponding to your choice on the blank line provided and then total your score.

1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Usually 4 = Always

- _____ 1. I write down what people tell me in meetings and in classes, so that I can refer back to it if needed. I realize that it is my responsibility to know the information.
- _____ 2. I read the information given to me through emails, letters, or in class, including the class syllabus. (In college, faculty and staff expect students to read all of the information given to them, even if it is not discussed in class or at a meeting.)
- _____ 3. I keep track of the assignments that I have completed. I do not rely on my parents or instructors to tell me what I have left to do.
- _____ 4. When I don't like an instructor's teaching style, I know how to learn the subject anyway.
- _____ 5. When I have a problem; I take positive actions to find a solution.
- _____ 6. When choosing between doing an important school assignment or hanging out with friends, I do the school assignment.
- _____ 7. When I do not do well on a test or assignment, I do not blame other people. Instead, I ask myself, "What lesson can I learn here?"
- _____ 8. When I encounter a challenging problem, I ask for help. (In college, students must seek out help if they need it. Instructors do not automatically offer assistance to students.)
- _____ 9. I read the textbook and do assignments to gain a better understanding of the material even when my instructor does not grade me on my work. (In college, professors expect students to complete homework assignments, even if the assignments are not graded.)
- _____ 10. I use a planner and prepare a "to do" list daily, so that I arrive on time to classes and meetings and complete assignments by the required deadlines.
- _____ **Total**

Scores

31-40 = You are ready for college life! Congratulations!

21-30 = You are almost ready. Modify your behavior somewhat and you will be sure to succeed.

11-20 = Are you surprised by some of the expectations of college life?

Note those qualities that you need to change.

1-10 = College life may be very challenging for you.

Making the Transition

- Take control of your own education: think of yourself as a scholar.
- Get to know your professors; they are your single greatest resource.
- Be assertive. Create your own support systems, and seek help when you realize you may need it.
- Take control of your time. Plan ahead to satisfy academic obligations and make room for everything else.
- Make thoughtful decisions: don't take a course just to satisfy a requirement or save \$\$\$; but don't drop any course too quickly.
- Think beyond the moment: set goals for the semester, the year, your college career.

To future PSEO students, from previous PSEO students

Best advice...

- Go to class.
- Read the chapters.
- Classroom quiz online.
- Start early on quizzes.
- Don't read when you're tired.
- Study the chapter before class.
- Take notes before, during, and after class.
- Use the mini-quizzes in the book.
- Memorize terms.
- Manage time.

To Do or Not to Do?

- Make a study plan.
- Study every day.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Form a study group to *discuss* the material.
- Explore new learning styles.
- "teach stuffed animals."
- Participate in class.
- Do not miss class.
- Stay ahead.
- Be prepared before class.

