Major Differences Between
High School & College

Be sure to connect with the Career Center for resources to assist your student during their transition from high school to college and beyond.

**High School**

- **HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION/GRADES**
  Academic competition is not as strong; good grades can often be obtained with minimal effort.

- **HIGH SCHOOL STATUS**
  Students establish a personal status in academic and social activities based on family and community factors.

- **HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING/DEPENDENCE**
  Students can rely on parents, teachers, and counselors to help make decisions and give advice. Students must abide by parents’ boundaries and restrictions.

- **HIGH SCHOOL MOTIVATION**
  Students get stimulation to achieve or participate from parents, teachers, and counselors.

- **HIGH SCHOOL FREEDOM**
  Students’ freedom is limited. Parents will often help students out of a crisis should one arise.

- **HIGH SCHOOL DISTRACTIONS**
  There are distractions from school, but these are partially controlled by school and home.

- **HIGH SCHOOL VALUE JUDGEMENTS**
  Students often make value judgements based on parental values; thus, many of their judgements are made for them.

- **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER/STUDENT CONTACT**
  Contact is closer and more frequent (5 days a week)

**College**

- **COLLEGE COMPETITION/GRADES**
  Academic competition is much stronger; minimal effort may produce poor grades.

- **COLLEGE STATUS**
  Students can build their status as they wish; high school status can be repeated or changed.

- **COLLEGE COUNSELING/DEPENDENCE**
  Students rely on themselves; they see the results of making their own decisions. It is their responsibility to seek advice as needed. Students set their own restrictions.

- **COLLEGE MOTIVATION**
  Students apply their own motivation to their work and activities as they wish.

- **COLLEGE FREEDOM**
  Students have much more freedom. Students must accept responsibility for their own actions.

- **COLLEGE DISTRACTIONS**
  The opportunity for more distractions exists. Time management for students will become important.

- **COLLEGE VALUE JUDGEMENTS**
  Students have the opportunity to see the world through their own eyes and develop their own opinions.

- **COLLEGE TEACHER/STUDENT CONTACT**
  Faculty are available during office hours (only a few hours a week) and by appointment to meet with students.