# What to Expect: Differences from High School

## High School vs. University

### Self-Responsibility
- **High School:** Parents decide when and if to disclose their child’s disability. Parents advocate for their child.
- **University:** Students decide when and if to disclose a disability. Students advocate for themselves.

### Classes
- **High School:** The school sets timetables, monitors attendance, and reminds students of important dates. Class sizes range from 20 to 40 students.
- **University:** Students are responsible for timetables, attendance, graduation requirements, and keeping track of important dates. Class sizes may have up to 100 or more students.

### Teachers and Instructors
- **High School:** If parents disclose, teachers know about students’ disabilities. Teachers and staff provide individualized instruction, modifications, and accommodations based on students’ Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or history. Teachers actively support student success by:
  - Reminding students about assignments, homework, and tests
  - Providing material missed during absences
  - Providing other resources
  - Checking in on students’ progress, being available to meet after class and offering extra support

- **University:** Instructors may or may not be experienced in teaching students with disabilities. Academic requirements are not individualized or modified. Students consult with SAS about specific accommodations and resources.

### Studying
- **High School:** Study time of a couple of hours per course per week is often enough. Teachers regularly review material and check up on assigned reading.
- **University:** Study time of 10 – 20 hours outside class time is usually needed. Students are expected to review notes and textbooks regularly on their own. Students are expected to complete assigned readings without instructor follow-up.

### Tests and Exams
- **High School:** Course material is often reviewed in class before a test. Tests are frequent and cover small amounts of material.
- **University:** Students are responsible for reviewing course material outside of class. Tests can be infrequent and may cover large amounts of material.

### Grades
- **High School:** Most assigned work is graded and non-test grades may raise an overall mark. Students may pass even with low grades.
- **University:** Grades usually depend on papers, projects, labs, and exams. To receive course credit, students must achieve a set grade point average and an overall grade point average to continue in their program.

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*Adapted from Transition Planning Guide, Government of Alberta, 2016*