

WRITING CENTRE

Level 3 East, Hub Central

North Terrace campus, The University of Adelaide

Learning Environment

In High School ...

Teachers will give detailed information about homework and expected out-of-class learning activities.

Teachers will issue reminders about assignment due dates.

Your learning time is mostly taken up by lessons.

Your progress is regularly monitored by your teachers and formalised in end-of-term reports to parents.

At University ...

Formal teaching such as lectures, tutorials and lab work takes up less of your learning time.

There are no formal end-of-semester reports for parents.

You are expected to know your course deadlines.

You are treated as an adult who is fully responsible for their own learning and progress.

You are expected to self-direct your own study. A good ratio is 1:3. That is, for every timetabled hour, you should do 3 hours of self-directed study.

Responsibilities

In High School ...

Less freedom: you must attend classes.

The school is responsible for checking-up on your attendance.

At University ...

Lecturers will not normally chase non-attendeess.

More choice: you can skip class. The responsibility is yours. (Note: attendance can be an assessable component of some courses).

Contact

In High School ...

Teaching staff know your name.

Teaching staff are available to discuss your progress with you and your parents.

At University ...

Teaching staff are not readily available, so you will need to initiate consultations with them.

Laws prevent teaching staff from disclosing information about your progress to your parents.

Feedback

In High School ...

Feedback may be a part of your assignment drafting process (formative feedback).

You often receive frequent feedback from your teachers without having to request it.

At University ...

Feedback can be infrequent.

Feedback is often given only after the final assignment is submitted (summative feedback).

Marking criteria can vary from course to course.

Preparing Assignments

In High School ...

Tips to help you bridge the gap between school and university

Do not assume that high marks at school equates to high marks at university. The marking criteria can require different levels of understanding and synthesis.

Learn how to use the library properly, as Wikipedia is often frowned on as a resource.

Learn to prioritise your studies, otherwise time management issues could become problematic for you.

Read your course guides and MyUni information carefully. Your course coordinators, lecturers and tutors will assume that you have done this.

Recognise that you can change things, but you will need to be proactive and not wait for others to offer help or support.