


 The logo for SWE NEXT, with 'SWE' in blue and 'NEXT' in large, bold, blue and yellow letters.


What is the biggest difference between high school and college?

Welcome to the SWEet Wisdom column!

It's the season of college applications and decisions, so we know this is a topic on many of your minds. For those of you going through it right now, best of luck! It'll all work out. In the meantime, let's hear some advice from fellow SWE members on the transition from high school to college.

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The biggest difference is the freedom of class scheduling. In high school, you have to sign up for classes in a 6-hour time block. When you get to college, you can sign up for early morning classes or late evening classes. You do whatever works best for you so you can plan around work or other extracurricular activities. The workload that comes with these classes also varies. Often, engineering students will be up late in the library, lab or shop finishing up a design project.



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In college, how you do the work is up to you. You have the opportunity to reach out and work with fellow students, your instructors and others in



courses, but rarely will it go the other way. If a faculty member asks to meet with you, do so. This means they want to help you succeed.

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The biggest different between high school and college is spending most of your time around your friends and the other people you take classes with. In high school, most people go home at the end of the day to their families. In college, the same people that you sat with in class all day may be the same people you go to the dining hall with or even live with. Adjusting to spending all your time with friends and peers while managing your workload can be challenging, but this setup also allows you to become close with people very quickly!



Do you have a question for our women engineers at SWE? We'd love to hear from you! Send your questions to swenext@swe.org. We'll answer you, and your question may become a future SWEet Wisdom column!



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