College vs. The World of Work









College

Frequent, quick and concrete feedback (grades, etc.)

Highly structured curriculum and programs with lots of direction

Few significant changes

Flexible schedule

Frequent breaks and time off

Personal control over time, classes and interests

Intellectual challenge

Choose your performance level (e.g. A, B, C)

Focus on your growth and development

Create and explore knowledge

Individual effort

"Right" answers

Independence of ideas and thinking

Professors

Less initiative required

World of Work

Infrequent and less precise feedback

Highly unstructured environment and tasks with few directions

Frequent and unexpected changes

Structured schedule

Limited time off

Directions and interests dictated by others

Organizational and people challenges

A-level work required all the time

Focus on getting results for the organization

Get results with your knowledge

Team effort

Few "right" answers

Do it the company's way

Bosses

Lots of initiative required

Source: Holton, Ed, (2000) "Managing the Transition to Work," National Association of Colleges and Employers: Bethlehem, PA