

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS: SPAIN AND THE U.S.

<u>SPAIN</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
- Obtain a professional education	- Obtain knowledge in different fields
- The Degree: Starting with the first course, the student is oriented to a specialization within their area of study and affiliates with this department ("faculty").	-The students do not have to select a major when entering the university. They can select a major at the end of the second year and it can be changed.
-Curriculum: All students are enrolled in a department with a clear curriculum determined by the university following some lines marked by the government. They should start with the first course, and they cannot choose courses in other subjects.	- Students enroll in a "college" or "university" and take courses in different departments with other students, not necessary courses in their major or minor. - There is more flexibility to make a plan of study combining different specialities.
-To obtain the degree the student must have completed and approved a certain number of core and elective subjects. All this makes the student meets a number of credits/number of hours. -Every 10 hours of class is usually worth one ECTS credit.	-You also have to accumulate a number of credits determined by your program, spread among compulsory and free subjects. -A credit is equivalent to 15 hours of class.
- Content of subjects : In the last years of career the teacher expects that the student already has a greater knowledge of their discipline and for that reason the level of the class is higher. The teacher will evaluate everything you know before and what You have learned later. There is a chronology of learning. You must study and read every week.	-You must complete "pre-requisites" before upper level courses. However the teacher usually does not evaluate students based on knowledge acquired in previous courses. There is a chronology of learning. You must study and read every week.
-The responsibility of learning falls on the student. The teacher imparts knowledge through lecture and practical classes. The teaching is more guided by the teacher. -Class attendance is obligatory, both for lecture and practical classes.	- The teacher has more responsibility in helping the student acquire knowledge through work written, partial, presentations, etc. The teacher adheres to a specific program (syllabus). -Class attendance is mandatory and there is a lot of importance assigned to contact hours in order for students to receive credit.
-Teachers have hours of tutoring in their offices Even so, it is recommended that the students ask for a prior appointment with the teacher before	- Teachers usually keep office hours to maintain contact with the students.

going to his or her office.	
The relationship between students in a course is cooperative (notes are passed, groups are of study, etc.). Students chat with each other in class, interrupting the teacher at times.	-The classes are based on an individual effort and it is more competitive. There is not much margin of negotiation with the teacher at a collective level, although at an individual level. The students do not chat with each other in class. They are allowed to do so.
- The relationship between teacher and student is usually distant. The classes are of two types: lecture (the teacher speaks) and practical sessions: where wait for the student to participate. The students depend a lot on the notes. The bibliography is very extensive but not always mandatory.	-The relationship between teacher and student is usually more close and friendly. In class, the dialogue and student participation. Class is supported by notes and obligatory readings specified in the program.
- Assessment is done, mainly, through a final exam (apart from that the works done in class, reading controls, oral presentations ... that also count) where what matters most is knowledge of the course material and not necessarily critical thinking.	- Usually assessment is based on a midterm and final plus assignments that express critical thinking or problem resolution. Also the degree of individual participation can affect the final grade.
-The final grade is sometimes published in lists that are accessible to all, indicating the names of the students and their grade. But frequently, they appear on the student's website. -It is not common to return exams or assignments to the students.	- The privacy of the final grade is maintained and not openly published -Exams and corrected papers are returned to the student and with notes from the teacher.
-Failing is not uncommon. Students tend to have a higher study load. Exam re-sits may be offered.	-The students rarely fail a subject as they tend to be more helped and the study load is lower. No second is offered exam of the same course.
-The teacher establishes a review date for exams when students have the possibility to see their exams and review the final grade.	-The student can request an appointment with the teacher to review their papers and final exams. Usually it is easier to negotiate a final grade or ask for extra credit to overcome a low grade.