

## Spartans Speak on COVID-19

I do wish that the university response was faster because the school was closed until after we heard the news of someone in Santa Clara County passing away from COVID-19. There should have been action taken beginning from the first confirmed case in Santa Clara County so the university could have prepared better every campus member better. I know that many professors were struggling to continue their curriculum through an online platform.

The entire state shutting down was shocking because not only was our university closing, but one of my workplaces as well. I could no longer work with my children at SJSU's Preschool Lab but also the children at the child-care center that I worked at. Not being able to come to campus for the rest of the semester was devastating, especially since I was in my last semester as a double major. When we began online instruction, I felt unmotivated to continue the rest of the semester because I wasn't going to be able to have a graduation ceremony that recognizes my accomplishments or have a party with my family and friends to celebrate.

Although I felt unmotivated at the beginning, I quickly realized I had no time to waste seeing as how I still had 5 classes that weren't going away any time soon. I got back on track to make my life feel as normal as possible despite not being able to go to school. Gradually, I began to realize that maybe this was somewhat of the "break" I was looking for. I've been waking up around 5:30 or 6 AM every day I had school for the past five years so I could fight the parking situation. There were many days where I would only have an hour to get home from school and get ready to go to work. I would rarely see my family because our schedules were too different even though we lived in the same house. There were some very challenging times my family and I have gone through to the point where I was going to drop out of university to support them.

Instead, I was able to catch up on sleep because I didn't have to find parking for a class that started at 9 or 10. I was able to get my work done because one of my jobs was shut down due to the pandemic. I was able to spend more time with my family. COVID-19 gave me a moment of clarity to reset and focus on what I have in front of me. I've been able to get myself back on track and working at the pace I was when we were having in-person instruction.

I'm truly proud of myself being resilient during these strange times and sticking to my studies. I'm now one week away from graduating.

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