

At the beginning of this semester (Spring 2020), I was excited about many reasons. The main reason was that it was my last semester at SJSU. After this semester, I would graduate. I had dreams of graduation since my first day at SJSU, and now, this is it! I felt like all my hard work has finally come to an end, and it can finally be paid off. I was so excited about graduation, the day my family can finally join me and celebrate completing such a huge milestone. But most importantly, they can finally be proud of me because I was not a traditional student. I took a lot longer than my peers to get to where I am today.

However, a few months into my last semester, I learned that COVID-19 was spreading. We were informed that all in-person classes would stop and transition to an online format. Honestly, I didn't think much of it because I never experienced anything like this before, I had no reference. However, I soon learned about the severity of the issue and how it will affect my last semester of undergrad. I was instructed by the school to continue with online classes for the rest of the semester. Furthermore, I was heartbroken to learn there will be no in-person graduation.

As the weeks passed I struggled with transitioning from in-person lectures to online classes. It was difficult because the learning style was not suited for me. You see, contrary to popular opinions, I actually enjoyed attending in-person class. I can fully focus my attention and ask questions if I did not understand a topic. In class, I am able to take notes while the lesson is being taught, I can learn better when I am not distracted. It made the learning experience more human, I guess. So when we transitioned to online, I lost my motivation. I was always the student to complete assignments days before it was due. If I encountered any issues, I knew I could ask the professor in person when I saw them. However, online, I lost that motivation which occurs with human interactions. The classes which I thought were easy before became harder for me. I slowly pushed off assignments and lacked the inclination to learn. I guess that's what happens when you are home every day and feel like you are stuck. I lost hope because this was not how I envisioned my last semester as a Spartan.

Although we are living in such a time of uncertainty, I have also learned the values of things. This pandemic taught me how fortunate I am to have what I have. I am fortunate that I can continue to finish my last semester because the transition may be detrimental to some students. It also taught me not to take anything for granted. Now as my life is slowing down, I learned how lucky I am that my family and I can spend more time together. I heard stories about exchange students who are stuck in the states and cannot return to their families during this time. It made me reflect about my situation and realize that I should not take it for granted.