

This pandemic has changed the lives of many and will forever leave an impression in our society. At the beginning of the semester, I understood the severity of COVID-19; however, I did not consider how fast this virus would spread. The reality of life soon hit me once we heard someone passing away in Santa Clara County. A couple of months before this news, work was becoming slower and fewer people were dining in. It soon became an issue as sales were declining at the company I was working for. Once school was announced the transitioning of moving courses online, I was utterly speechless. A couple of days later, I had to pack my bags and move back to Los Angeles. I didn't see myself moving back home after graduation and planned to start my career and journey in the Bay Area; however, everything changed. My family thought Los Angeles County would close all roads, which resulted in me driving back home at 2 am. I was shocked, scared, and overwhelmed.

I am a graduating senior, and this experience puts the majority of my peers and me in an awkward position. Companies are experiencing a hiring freeze, and many are getting laid off. What am I suppose to do? Where am I going to work? Am I even going to have a job? All these questions are running through my mind during this pandemic. I wish we had answers to some of these questions, but in reality, we don't know.

Through my experience of COVID-19, I have accepted reality and understand that although our lives have completely changed...this isn't a pause in life and in my overall success. It has made me come out of my comfort zone and try new things I always wanted to do but never had the time for. I started to implement meditation and looking into further steps in starting my own business—two things I always had an interest in but never had the motivation to attempt these goals. Although this pandemic is scary to experience, I have learned to what with what I have and maximize my opportunities.