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12-5-2020

## "Keeping up with my education through COVID"

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### Recommended Citation

Anonymous, ""Keeping up with my education through COVID"" (2020). *Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience*. 132.

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*Keeping Up With  
My Education While  
Dealing With COVID*

## Interaction and Expectations

Having my first day of class online felt unusual. I personally felt disconnected. As a transfer student I looked forward to the campus life and new interactions with teachers and students. I wanted to get to know the campus and the resources that it provides as I wandered around to know my new school. As I attended the classes online for the first time I also felt awkward. It was a bit weird seeing the teacher online and other people for the first time, yet we did not have any personal interactions or connections. For one class I had difficulty logging in so I was panicking that I was missing out on information. Turns out you have to sign up ahead of time so you can get the link sent to your email which was more time consuming instead of having the link to access it. This frustrates me because on campus I would have just gone to class instead of running into these kinds of problems. As I finish my first week of school I feel a bit upset because it is not any of the expectations I thought of. I feel like this semester is going to be hard aside from all the outside problems we are facing as a society. I feel like I am going to be alone in this journey as I continue to feel disconnected. I have yet to make a class friend, but I joined the GroupMe app so we'll see how it goes or if it helps me feel a bit more connected

*Stay positive.*

## Frustration

It is hard to remain positive. Although I know it is for our safety and we have to do school this way, it is frustrating me. I know I'm not the only one feeling this way because my class feels this way as we all, I can read it through GroupMe. Some teachers take forever to respond to us when it comes to certain concerns. My Geology class has been the worst. We are three weeks in and we have yet to learn anything. It is not that we are not trying, but the teachers' connections sucks. We spend 40 minutes of lecture time taking attendance because she kept cutting in and out. This happens EVERY time in this class. In fact we planned as a class to reach out to the school and report it because we are three weeks in, a test is coming up, and we have yet to actually learn something. This wouldn't happen in person, obviously technology is here to blame but the teacher isn't helping. As we told her our concerns and if she can make lecture videos instead because the internet lags, she implied this was not her primary job, this is her part time, so it would be hard for her to make the time for it. It is so discouraging to hear that, especially when you feel like you are on your own. Now I have to put in more time to teach myself for the test. I can't even ask for help because no one knows anything. Did I mention we don't have a study guide? Other classes are not frustrating like this but I have to manage to learn by myself this semester. *Stay positive.*

## School Work

Woah. I feel so overloaded with school work. I knew it wouldn't be easy but having to turn in assignments online is hard. I feel like in school we wouldn't have so many assignments because we would be learning as a whole not doing assignments to prove we are keeping up. For example, instead of someone giving us a lecture in school and us reviewing we get to watch videos but we have to take pages of notes to prove we watched them. It is also a bit hard to keep up with work since there are certain due dates and I have forgotten about a few although I have the work done. I have been put in group projects and so far no one has reached out to see how we are going to do it, other than greeting each other nothing else has been done. It is also frustrating trying to all come up with time to zoom because everyone has different school schedules or work. We have yet to meet up and do the work together so I will be starting it on my own. I was also told by a teacher my test did not get graded because there was an internet connection problem and it did not save any of my answers so now I have to retake it. Also, sometimes the connections come in and out and I get kicked out of classes and it takes a while to get back in and approve to enter by the teacher. I'm so overwhelmed with everything going on. Covid isn't just affecting my loved ones but my education too. It is getting hard for me to remain positive. *Better times will come.*

It is getting a little better

As time is getting closer to the end I am finally managing to get the hang of it and accustomed to it, finally. I feel like students are also starting to reach out to one another for help and guidance. No one is shy to speak out anymore behind screen or reaching out to get answers. It is starting to feel like it took awhile but it is getting better. I am getting more interaction with the people in my groups too, although it is still hard to make the time for everyone to participate, we are still managing to get more work done. The class that had bad connections is now easy to learn because she is uploading videos weekly now and making us log in for a couple minutes to review with us and answer any questions that we have from the lecture. In a class we had speed zoom breakout rooms where we got into groups and were able to talk about our learnings and move on from group to group. I really like this technique the teacher used because it connected us more to one another in regards to meeting people, getting out of our comfort zone, and expressing our ideas and listening to new ones. I look forward to this technique again. Teachers seem to be more concerning about us too and letting us know we are not alone in this difficult time. Although it is getting better and I've seen what works for me I still look forward to ending the online learning and going to class at school.

*It did get better.*

## Reflecting on everything

I have mixed feelings. I am upset the semester is ending because I feel like I got the hang of it and I was able to get the connection I once wanted in the beginning, but now it is all going to an end. I am also glad it is done and over with because it was a stressful experience to get through. I know that many students gave up, and it was too much for them aside from the pandemic, but it is understandable because many of us are going through hard times. It is hard to remain positive with all the negative impact the pandemic brought upon us, but I still do hope and look forward to getting the on campus life experience. Creating personal bonds is important to me and that was the most difficult challenge this semester. On the other hand, I also feel confident that I did the best I could even when I was struggling in my education and personal life. Trying to stay positive was hard on my mental health because in the beginning it felt like things were not going to get any better. I had many difficulties when it came to technology and it frustrated me to my core, but I think I got the hang of it and I am ready to take on the next semester. I know I am going to look back on this one day and be thankful for the experience. I am thankful that we got the opportunity to continue our education in order to reach our goals and remain safe and healthy at the same time. I am proud of myself for learning how to manage everything online and continued to keep

trying. I am also proud and thankful of the professors who were in this learning experience with us. Reflecting and looking back, I know we were all in this together all along, even though it did not feel that way. I now know it did not feel that way because we were all figuring it out. Campus or not on campus, I am grateful we are doing the best we can together.