

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 I was sitting in my dorm preparing to do some homework due Monday so I could get a head start when the dreaded email came in. We were being sent home because of the pandemic. The minute I heard the news I had begun to text all of my friends on campus to see what they were feeling and how they were going to get home. I then called my parents and told them the news and we planned on how I was getting home. Sunday was when I would be picked up and would head back home to Massachusetts. The toughest thing was the goodbye I had to say to one of my best friends who I have not seen in person since March of last year. Her senior year was ruined because of Covid and now mine is being messed up as well because of Covid. My second semester of junior year was messed up because of Covid. No junior formal, no spring choir concert, no party your class off, and no in person graduation that I could cheer my best friend on at. That first week at home they did not have classes so that the professors could transfer over to online. Two of my classes actually met online via zoom and the conference on canvas. The other two just had us do the work and turn it in by a certain date. Being at home meant now having to deal with both myself and younger sister taking the rest of our semester from home. Between switching rooms while one was on class and the other was doing work and the stress of everyone being under the same roof let's just say it got rough. Then the summer came and my usual summer job did not happen so I worked at the other program through the department. I made sure that when I did not have work to try to make the best of the situation and the nice weather and eat outside with my friends as much as I could. We had a picnic on the porch for one of their birthday's and frequently went to get ice cream together trying to make the best of the complicated situation we were in. Soon it came time to move back to campus for my final two semesters of my undergraduate career. First semester I

had two hybrid courses, one all online, and one in person. Let's just say the semester was not as successful as I had hoped unfortunately due to multiple factors including the change in format and the added pandemic stress. Who knew online classes were so tough to get through.

Campus has been so different this year between no Christmas feast and gingerbread to having to make a reservation for the dining hall these changes have sure made things feel a bit strange. So why did I choose to share insight into what my life has been like? Well I figured it would help others in the future see what life was like during the pandemic and how I managed to get through it. The daily dog pictures from my mom and facetimeing my friends definitely helps. I also chose this to show people that it is ok to feel overwhelmed and stressed about the current situation and that colleges are trying to support us and allow us to feel safe. To whoever reads this in the near future the stress and worry your feeling is normal. To whoever is reading this once the pandemic is over years from now this is what life was like as a college student during a global pandemic.