

MARCH 2020

The beginning of March was strange. We all knew about covid, but it didn't seem real, it didn't seem like something that was truly going to affect us. There were many periods of uncertainty, this happened when we heard that other UW schools were going online. We did not know if that would happen to us. March 12th was the day that this changed. We found out that our spring break was being extended, and we were encouraged to all go home. I was so sad, I did not want to leave my friends. The next day was the day I left, and it was the weirdest feeling. In the back of my mind, I knew I wasn't coming back, but I did not want to admit it. I remember struggling with how much to pack. My sister and grandma came to pick me up, and I remember fighting back tears as I drove away from campus. I felt let down that my freshman year of college would not get to take its full course. The feeling of uncertainty never really left for the rest of March. A week after I left campus, I returned to pack up the rest of my dorm. This meant that it was truly over, and that was something that was hard to accept. The rest of March consisted of trying to keep myself busy, trying not to go crazy, not leaving my house, and only seeing my family

April 2020

April seems like a blur. Looking back, nothing significant really happened in April. Classes started back up again, which was nice to have something to do. Towards the middle of April is when I really started accepting the truth of this pandemic. Although I always knew that it was serious, I truly felt it now. When I originally went home, I had assumed that I would be able to work. This was not the case. I work at a children's center, and they only stayed open for essential families, meaning that they only needed a few staff. School was okay, I only had one class that met virtually at a certain time. This is when I first started experiencing a strong lack of motivation. Not having a reason to get up, and get ready in the morning made school extremely difficult. At this time, we did not know what to expect. Many people were saying "oh, it will be over by summer" it was almost believable, because there were not many cases in my county. This created some sort of hopefulness, which was nice & uplifting, even if this feeling didn't last long.

MAY 2020

As May came around, school became harder. After a month and a half of not leaving my house, I was really struggling. There was a lot of procrastination. Now, we were starting to see a rise of covid cases in our area. No one wanted to admit it, but we knew this was just the beginning.

May was hard, consisting of me dealing with a lot of emotions. I was on the home stretch of my freshman year, and was sad it didn't look how I thought it would. It did help that the snow had melted, making it easier to go outside. Because of this, we were able to see some of our family. We went to a park, played tennis, pickleball, and talked. It was nice to finally see them, after being with the same people for so long.

After 2 months, I finally got to see my boyfriend, which was awesome. I think being long distance during a pandemic made us stronger. When finals were over, I went back to work. It was nice to have a schedule back in my life, and a reason to leave my house.

June and July 2020

The hardest thing about summer was watching many people ignore the fact that there is a pandemic going on. I watched so many people on social media hang out with different people every day, go to parties, bars, and completely disregard the pandemic. I know that I wasn't perfect, but I did not see any of my hometown friends, and it was really hard. Besides this, my summer was pretty normal, I worked and went to my cabin. At this point, I had lost all of those small feelings of hopefulness. As I saw more covid cases, and people starting to come less, I knew this wasn't ending any time soon. The new exciting thing that happened was my lease starting at my apartment. I was able to escape to Eau Claire once in a while, which was nice. Being done with school made everything a little bit easier, now we only had the stress of a global pandemic hanging over us, not adding college classes onto that for a couple of ~~more~~ months was nice.

August 2020

August was the first time that covid affected my family and me. Both of my sisters tested positive for covid. At this point, I was just assuming that I had it, but I tested negative. My mom and I left our house and quarantined at our cabin so we did not get exposed. Because of this, I was in isolation for about 18 days. I wasn't able to work, and this was stressful because tuition was coming up. I was also starting to get worried about school. I wasn't sure about the format of many of my classes, and was worried about becoming unmotivated if many of my classes were online. On a positive note, I finally got to move to Eau Claire full time. This was exciting, as it had been a long couple of months not being able to see my friends.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

2020

As school started, I was hopeful. I was excited about having a fresh start. I was able to go to a few in person classes, which felt good. It made things feel normal. This lasted until about September 20, when two of my roommates tested positive. This quarantine had an extreme effect on my mental health, because not only did I have to stay in my apartment, but I couldn't see my roommates. This caused a giant decrease in my motivation. Being back at school was also hard because I again started seeing so many people being careless and partying. Although I had seen more friends than I had at home, I was not going to giant house parties. In October, the upcoming election created more stress. I am pretty heavily leaning a certain way on the political spectrum, and I felt that if my candidate did not get elected that we would feel the consequences for a long time. After my quarantine, life seemed pretty normal, but school was harder than I had anticipated.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Once the election was over, I started feeling a lot more hopeful for the future of this country. Though the election stress ended, the school stress only intensified. As classes went fully remote, I continued to struggle to find motivation. A positive that did happen: I got a new job. Having something to leave the house for & to have to get ready for allowed for an increase in productivity. I did get to go home for Thanksgiving, but did not get to participate in the usual Thanksgiving traditions. It was sad not being able to see grandparents, cousins, aunts & uncles, but knowing we were doing the right thing made it a lot easier. Many of my friends and roommates stayed home after Thanksgiving, so I have been on my own for the majority of December. Though it has been hard, it has taught me a lot of things. Now, school is more stressful than ever with finals coming up. There is no clear path for this pandemic, nothing has changed. I am still feeling those same feelings of uncertainty, I'm just getting used to it.