

Coming into College: Covid Circumstances

College is a challenging time for anyone who decides to embark on the journey to higher education. However, students who came into college during the Fall of '20 faced obstacles that had never been seen before. Instead of getting acclimated around campus, new and returning students were getting familiar with zoom classes and the 3 W's (wait, wash, and wear).

Returning students talk about how COVID ruined their college experience by cutting it short and robbing them of full experience. However, the incoming freshman class of 2024 feels completely different. Some say being asynchronous gave off a fake college narrative while others enjoyed "zooming" their way to a degree.

I sat down with Asiyah Ibrahim, a junior who came in during Covid, who says she misses online learning. She said just now being able to be fully immersed in the college experience truly difficult. "For this to be my junior year and my first time going to class every day, I feel lost and like I am behind. I was used to self-pace schoolwork and just getting it done when it got done. Now I have to wake up go to class and it just seems all too overwhelming."

On the contrary some, students who prefer in-person learning are more than ecstatic to be back full swing. I talked to Jazmine Bryan who told me she "hated online learning." She went on to explain that after her first semester she hurried back home to Georgia because she felt like her time was being wasted. "I barley learned online, and I was getting good grades with no substance."

Freshman who enrolled to college in the Fall of 2020, had a unique introduction to college life. They adapted and persevered, and the resilience they have shown is admirable. College is "back to normal," and hopefully these students can make the best out of what is left in their college experience.