**COVID-19**

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As a current sophomore attending East Carolina University, I am capable of comparing this fall (2020) to last (2019) regarding its campus, social distancing, and coursework. With this being said, it is difficult not to notice what major change has been implemented at ECU considering the Corona Virus.

I have mixed emotions regarding the current pandemic. At first, I did believe that it only pertained to people over about sixty years of age. Now, I see that many others, of all ages, have deeply been affected. I do believe as though last year’s “flu season” was considered pre-Corona for us, so to speak. It felt as though this fall sickness was occurring more in almost everyone with its Corona virus-similar symptoms, only for the global pandemic to officially begin its outbreaks in America months later. In the simplest of terms, something suspicious of COVID still remains. I still cannot confidently say that I am sure of where or how the disease came to be; in a Japanese lab? From an eaten bat? With many unanswered questions still present, I am simply left skeptical of this virus’s origin, as well as its true intended purpose.

With my intended major being Interior Design, I can speak for others in the program when I say that our list of required classes contains those intended to be very hands-on. Since the beginning of COVID-19, learning necessary design skills to do with color and light while using architectural tools such as lightboards and protractors has made the major’s material more difficult by far considering the less affective learning approach. This, not including our regular access to AutoCAD, Sketchup, and Revit that is no longer a usable resource when the Rivers studios, along with the rest of campus, is presently locked. When considering these circumstances, I start to feel nervous as well as anxious when thinking of the future for interior designers, optimistically counting myself. How will I ever “catch up” on the interactive lessons I am missing out on, with this being based on my opinion that online classes cannot teach their students valid, lasting material. I have slight fear over the future of my career and, personally, my own future clients in who I would hope to provide the best possible services to. However, regardless of a global pandemic, my passion for interior design remains and will, at some point, push me to work even harder throughout the upcoming years in order to help compensate for East Carolina’s Fall 2019.