

Spring 2020 Reflection

When I first started my classes in January, I never could have imagined the turn the semester would take and the challenges we would encounter in higher education, let alone in society as a whole. I was extremely anxious going into the semester, largely because of my Doctoral Research Methods class, which I knew meant more statistics for me. In the end, the events of Covid-19 were what caused me anxiety and stress this semester. It's a unique and interesting time to be a doctoral student working in higher education right now, as we all deal with what Covid-19 means for our institutions. Starting in March, my school went remote for the remainder of the semester so as to comply with social distancing restrictions. This also meant that our cohort monthly meetings were suspended until further notice. I must admit that I really do miss meeting with my cohort each month, but our communication with each other has maintained via GroupMe and Zoom. Regarding my coursework for this semester, I ended up really enjoying both courses, even though EDUR 9131 required a significant amount of time to complete. Each report and associated write meant a few hours a day for a week in order to complete the assignment to my best ability. I will say, though, that these hours did contribute to my learning the content really well. I was able to earn 9.4/10 or higher on each report so the work did pay off. Dr. Zinskie's class has altered the way I view statistics so much so that I am now considering a Mixed Methods approach for my dissertation topic because I believe this will most fully answer my research questions.

The second class we took this spring, EDLD 9534, was one that provided some real-life applications and did not overly stress me out. Again, the course was altered a bit due to Covid-19, but our professor maintained contact and communication so that we did not lose out on the class content. Through my assignments in this class, I created a teaching philosophy statement and even a dream syllabus for a future course. I think the syllabus project was the most fun for me since Dr. Sorgen allowed us a lot of freedom with this and I was able to create a tutor training course. While I don't aspire to teach after earning my EdD, I appreciated the creation of course elements we did for this class. Prior to moving online for Covid, we reviewed some educational technology tools that I was able to even implement in my work at the Learning Center. This class was good for my career but also really helped my soul this semester, as all the changes took a toll. Through the course work, I was able to reflect on courses I'd want to teach in the future and how my teaching philosophy could show in these classes. I appreciated how Dr. Sorgen adjusted the class content as needed and allowed for flexibility as we all encountered this new pandemic time. Once again, the faculty in the program supported us and guided us through unplanned changes, all while allowing us to still learn the content.