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ESS 221
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The Busiest Year Yet

I am a busy bee, I normally work 25-30 hours at BJs Brewery, have a full course load with 12-17 credits and try to have some sort of a social life with my girlfriend and other friends. Previous years I have been able and willing to stay afloat, and earned solid grades in classes. I was able to be someone who could procrastinate a little and be okay throughout it all. For some weird reason this semester and year really kicked my butt. In fall of 2020, it seemed manageable, everything seemed so new (and exciting?). This first semester online, and social distancing, all of it seemed new and somewhat exciting to have a change in pace in my academia. SUPER was my only in person class, and at the time, I thought "Oh! It will be really nice that I only have to worry about one class since all the others are going to be remote asynchronous!" I was totally wrong.

I am someone who procrastinates a little, not a lot, but I still give myself enough time to complete tasks like homework, or assignments, shoot, even this assignment, I am working on two days before it is due. I have been able to function that way for the past six semesters which is something that I feel quite proud of. There was the big year deliverable of the SUPER poster and the research paper that were two items that I knew I would have not been able to procrastinate.

Figure 1 Some "regular" scheduling discrepancies that I may have came across

This was my girlfriend and my schedule last semester in the busiest time. Looking at it, the blue is all my work, and about the classes that are in purple and green are my classes. As you can see there was a lot of work to do, and there was a lot of free time to get stuff done. To put into perspective, this was me working there for about 3 months, only hosting and bussing at the restaurant. As you can see, Tuesday and Wednesday were the easier days, which forced me to finish homework for the week before working all weekend. This schedule was also sort of a norm, which made the semester go by pretty quick, and pretty painless.

Here is the newest, latest and greatest scheduling that I partook in for the second half of the semester. The blue is still my work, and the dark blue and dark purple are my classes. As

Figure 2 The latest and greatest new normal. Showing all of the scheduling issues and truly how busy I have been.

you can see, it is a lot, working on homework rarely happened throughout the week, and I would continue to try and cram stuff in during the week with hopes that I have had it finished. Most weeks do look like this, or on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, I would put in 12-hour days just so I could make a little extra money. Because it is about a year now with me working at the restaurant, they allow me to host, bus, work takeout, or even serve. At this point, I can cover a lot of bases, and they have gotten to a point now where I would put in somewhere between 30-45 hours on a normal week.

Looking back, between 2020, and 2021, 2020 seemed to be easy in comparison to spring 2021, but at this point, classes are either slowing down, or going hard for the remainder of the

Figure 3 The dreaded R codes, showing some of the error messages, and how it may spit out a response

semester. The SUPER program is finally slowing down quite a bit, which is such a relief, due to the many hours of extra work it took, learning a new coding language (R). For the people who are not familiar with the SUPER program, it is a program where you would work closely with a mentor, and they will help guide you through some studies, research papers, and a research poster. It was a lot of fun, but it takes a lot more time than I was allowing, and it caused many restless nights having nightmares about forgetting all the little bits of code that I have learned, or the missing comma, quotation mark, or parenthesis that cannot be found throughout the code.

Granted, there are some areas that get marked to see certain punctuation that may have been missed, but one missed typo, or an accidental double click may skew the data, or make the code useless. But it is something that is very useful in life moving forward, or even working at the restaurant, teamwork makes the dreamwork, and making sure there are enough hours in the day to allow to make mistakes and attempt to fix them.