How COVID has Changed my Job
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On 3/19/2020, my job as an educator transitioned to a 100% remote working situation due to COVID 19. The decision to forego in-person classes for the spring semester's remainder was made swiftly and decisively by upper administration. Everyone was in a scramble to shift all content to an online learning format. For the first few weeks of remote-only teaching and learning, there were what felt like hourly updates; we were flexible and adaptable for multiple contingency plans to accommodate accreditation requirements without sacrificing quality or delaying student graduation.

Looking back on this past year, I've been amazed at how well my team, the students, and the college have adapted to the new "normal college experience." Over the summer, there was skepticism on if we could pull off an in-person class and lab experience when so many other institutions chose to offer online only. But as the days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months in the fall, we were persevering in our ability to strictly follow COVID safety guidelines to remain on-site and in-person. How did we do it?! All faculty, staff, and students signed a pledge to commit to the safety of themselves, others, and the college; we added signage to all hallways and public areas to instruct proper social distancing practices; facemasks are mandatory for everyone on-site, and face shields required as an additional PPE for labs; classroom scheduling was masterfully edited to de-densify students; dividers were installed in classrooms, offices, and research labs to facilitate social distancing; disinfecting practices were followed after each class; the maintenance staff performed additional disinfecting procedures; breaks were canceled to minimize students leaving and then returning to campus; 10% of the campus population was randomly selected for surveillance COVID testing; faculty/staff were encouraged to have a hybrid working situation to de-densify offices.

Although COVID caused us to re-imagine how veterinary technology/nursing education can be accomplished, we’re just over halfway through the spring semester. We have continued to hold strong in our new normal.