

How Seattle University's Digital Design Program is Growing Through COVID-19

Ever since the world shut down in March of 2020, everyone has been struggling to make it through the rough battles of the ongoing pandemic. Like many of the institutions that have been closed since that time, Seattle University, a private Jesuit university located in the heart of Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, has been able to learn and grow throughout all of this. Through lectures taught through Zoom, an online video conference platform, as well as having asynchronous classes that are meant for students to learn on their own time, the university has shown that this global pandemic, despite all its harshness, is nothing in comparison to the professors and students at the institution who are dedicated, determined and willing to learn.

Lizzy Martin, a third-year digital design major and a student on the Dean's List at Seattle University, mentions about how the courses taught in quarantine has been helpful to her education and how the professors are willing to support her no matter what, saying:

“I’m currently in a printmaking class, which is asynchronous on Mondays and synchronous on Wednesdays, which is super helpful for me because I’m able to focus on recorded lectures, readings, and taking notes for the class on Mondays while being able to get to work on Wednesdays through Zoom and interact and collaborate with my classmates, a lot of whom I actually haven’t met in-person—which is really funny—but everyone in the class is super motivating.”

In addition, Martin notes how she has been able to travel—safely, of course—while having classes at the same time, stating:

“I actually have family in a small town in Montana, so it’s really nice to be able to hang out with my cousins and my newborn nephew while being able to have online classes. It was definitely something I never thought I would do because if there was not a pandemic, I would obviously be in a different state than them. But instead, I was just a short walk away from their house... I even based one of my final projects off of my nephew in one of my UCOR classes... The project was for my humanities UCOR. I made a short film about how my nephew, Ossian, who—hopefully—will never experience a global pandemic like this in his lifetime. One day, it would be really neat to see his reaction when he grows up and is able to watch the piece.”

Despite the global pandemic, Lizzy feels positive that when classes return to in-person sessions, she will be able to connect with all her classmates and professors once again, noting that it will be “[safe], of course, but I am excited to see my cohort of digital design majors and be able to collaborate with them in-person... In addition, because I will be graduating in the spring of 2022, I would really like to have an exhibition, also known as our senior showcase, to show to my friends and family at Seattle University my work. So, I am very excited for that as well.”

Seattle University plans on having in-person classes beginning in the Fall of 2021. For more information, please check out their website at <https://www.seattleu.edu/>. For more information about the digital design program, check out <https://www.seattleu.edu/artscli/undergraduate-degrees/digital-design/>.