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Student Interviews via Email

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Emails from Students

Student A

1. While you are at Whittier, how did the pandemic affect you?

It affected the decision I would take with grad school. After the pandemic hit I went back to Hawaii to be with my family and with the current situation I worked a job at Walgreens, had online classes, and applying for grad schools all at the same time.

2. Which buildings did you used to go to before the pandemic and how did it affect you when you can't go?

I used to go to the gym a lot so not it's home-based workouts and walks to the parks with my family.

3. Did the pandemic made you think about staying in college or leaving? Why?

The pandemic made me think about not pursuing grad school. I'm working in my 1st year at Yale Divinity School for my Masters of Divinity, but I was stuck between multiple schools and the stress of these decisions made me heavily think about taking the year off. I didn't want to put my family in a bad financial situation but luckily Yale offered a financial package and a hybrid class interface that allows me to work in Hawaii and also be here with my family.

4. Does your race and cultural background come into play when thinking about continuing or not continuing college?

Yes, my race plays a huge factor in continuing or not continuing college. My work and the path I want to pursue has me in a field where many blacks are not frequent in terms of holistic care and practical medical care. As an African American, I have to outwork my fellow peers with additional internships, resources, and recommendations in order to be considered in entering these schools. It's not easy but through my faith and my dedication, I'm making waves and proving that a South Central LA can produce scholars that can not only exceed in undergrad but in ivy league graduate programs as well.

Student B

1. While you are at Whittier, how did the pandemic affect you?

It has become a lot harder to complete my assignments. I commute to school and I am used to staying on campus to focus, making sure to keep school and home separate. It has become very hard for me to focus on work while doing school at home.

2. Which buildings did you used to go to before the pandemic and how did it affect you when you can't go?

It's been hard not being able to go to the library, I don't have a working printer at home and it has become difficult. I also miss going to the spot and doing homework with my friends.

3. Did the pandemic made you think about staying in college or leaving? Why?

I want to stay because I can't afford to leave for financial reasons and because I have plans for my future that I would like to stick to.

4. Does your race and cultural background come into play when thinking about continuing or not continuing college?

I am a woman of color and in order to be taken seriously in the world, or at least more seriously, I am determined to get as much education as I can, so I need to stay on track.