

My most meaningful experience to date is not a professional or academic experience but rather a more personal one. During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, my grandpa suffered a brain injury that left him bed ridden. Amongst the family, hope was we can get him to a stage where he regains his motor skills and starts living independently. During this time, I became responsible for all his medical needs. This included: administering his antibiotics, his food and pills (through a gastrostomy tube), and his daily physical therapy. For the next ten months, I juggled my grandpa's care and my studies. This was particularly challenging because I was heading into my sophomore year and enrolled in introductory computer science courses. Without realization, I was missing out on important aspects of an early computer science experience such as hackathons, interview preparations, and internships. I believe this to be my most meaningful experience because it shaped the person I am today. The physical exhaustion and the emotional burden of this experience built me into a more self-confident, mentally tough, and motivated person. After my grandpa's death, I found myself working harder than before to make up for the opportunities I lost in the year prior. Looking back, I notice that this experience played a major role in my success during my final two years of college.