

**11/11 Essay: Read this October 2020 article from UPenn that's a set of statements by faculty from a broad array of fields on the ways in which data and data science are contributing to or affecting their field with respect to COVID and the pandemic (hat tip to Rhea).**

**Write 1-2 paragraphs on the following: From what you know about your prospective major, what is a permanent or semi-permanent way the pandemic has affected your field of study or an aspect of culture or society related to your field? Do you believe the change is a net-positive or negative for society and why? What recommendations (if any) would you have for your field moving forward on the issue? For example, if you're a prospective business major, what are your thoughts on remote work and the use of office spaces and how businesses could think about "where" to work moving forward? Or, if you're a prospective psychology or sociology major, how has the virus and pandemic changed how people and societies view and react to germs? You have until 10:05.**

As a prospective Economics and Accounting double major student, reading this article and thinking about this question was quite mind-bending. One way that the pandemic has impacted Economics as a whole is simply the decisions it forced policymakers to conduct. In Macroeconomics, we learned about what happens when the aggregate demand curve shifts down/left, and when aggregate supply shifts up/left (as seen during the pandemic). When this happens, our economy is in a major trough and in order to shift the demand curve up and right (we can't use policy to shift the supply curve, it has to happen naturally with automatic correctors like, for example, increasing wages), we have to use either expansionary fiscal policy, or expansionary monetary policy. With expansionary policy, there are three ways the government can stimulate consumer spending and shift the aggregate demand curve right: the government can decrease taxes like income taxes, increase its expenditures on goods and services, and increase its governmental transfer to citizens (as we saw with people getting free money each month. This is an expansionary technique). The pandemic resulted in economics using the techniques they have learned and had in reserve for many years. Overall, I believe that this use of economical technique was most definitely beneficial for society, but in the long run! Some may see these hand-out as bad in the short-run, but in order to stimulate spending and shift the AD curve right in the long run, government transfers like such may be crucial.

In relation to my business major, the major has definitely been impacted in terms of isolation and remote work, as I have also seen with my Dad who used to travel much more. Business is a very social and interactive major, requiring networking and face-to-face conversations. Without this interaction, different businesses or even people trying to learn about the field at William and Mary may have struggled quite a bit. Giving presentations or making a pitch over Zoom is not ideal or realistic whatsoever. It results in business majors potentially settling to a lower level, knowing that they are not actually in a room of fifty people. In the short term, I do believe this change has had a damaging effect on the study of business and those in it. But in the long run, I can see how it may be potentially beneficial to us business majors: it will result in the necessity of better computer skills, communication, and computer practice. Likewise, in the long run, I am confident that increased human interaction within the business world will resume in order to increase connections and business transactions.