My first failing grade in college, not a great start to winter quarter. Winter quarter of freshman year was difficult for a lot of reasons. Because of covid, the first three weeks of the quarter spanning from Thanksgiving Break to Winter Break were online, my classes were 3 hours earlier because of time zone differences, and I had a completely online Physics 2 class. Now I had never a class at Rose that had assessments, quizzes, and homework completely online and I found that it was quite the adjust.

Online meant one attempt, no partial credit, one small mistake and you missed the entire problem. No problem, right? Wrong. My first quiz in the class I got a 25%. This was upsetting because I took physics in high school, and I thought I knew all the class materials. Second quiz, 33%. I kept falling into this pattern where I would mess up on one small calculation and the entire problem would get counted wrong, and I felt completely hopeless that I would succeed.

Ask your professors, is what I've always been told. Several emails and I got absolutely nowhere. 'Small mistakes are still mistakes", he would say. I felt defeated. Ever since high school I had prided myself on getting good grades, having straight As, and succeeding in my schoolwork. It was crushing to see the work I was putting in continue to present itself as failing grades.

So, I got to work studying. I put in extra time to make sure I understood every aspect of the concepts we learned. I checked and rechecked all the calculations I made before submitting quizzes and tests, no letting computation errors slip by. And slowly my grades got better, and by the end of the quarter I got a B in the class.

Not an A, a B. And I learned a lot from that. Not only did the quarter teach me how to persevere and work hard for my goals, but taught be that it was okay to get a B. After so many years of focusing on

just getting As, it was good to finally focus on learning and understanding the concepts rather than just a

letter grade.