

Students workload expands beyond the classroom due to part-time jobs

By Jason Juniewicz
contributing writer

For many Penn State Behrend students the day does not end when their last class is over. Many students go back to their dorms and houses to work on their homework or just hang out with their friends. But others are on their way to their other responsibility: their job. Some of these working students are just working for extra money, but others are working to pay rent, their tuition and other living expenses.

Behrend junior Greg Rothenberg says he works 35 to 40 hours a week to pay rent and for the part of his tuition that isn't covered by financial aid. Rothenberg says that working does make going to school more difficult, but it does help him develop good time management skills. "Working while going to school has really made me learn how to better manage my time. I didn't work when I first started school, and it was hard to get used to at first." He also says that working limits the amount of time he has to work on school work. He has to fit in projects and assignments between classes and work, which can sometimes be a difficult task. While he says this is an obstacle, he does, however, manage to maintain good grades. "It would be nicer to do some work in the afternoon or evenings, but overall I still do well in school."

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Rothenberg also says that he feels that having a job while being in school helps him prepare for life after college and learn responsibility. "Instead of just going to class and then coming home to party with my friends and having all the time I need to do my homework, I have to worry about having enough time to get everything done. I think it helps keep my mind on what I need to be doing instead of what I want to do."

But Rothenberg is just one case of a Behrend student working his way through school. Behrend senior Steve Miller has been juggling work and school since he came to college. Miller works at Behrend's restaurant Bruno's about 25 to 30 hours a week. Miller says that while working days and evenings leads to some late nights of homework, he

still manages to maintain his grades. "Working makes for some late nights of studying but I still manage to do well. I have learned to manage my time really well." Miller also says that he feels working through school also looks good to employers after college. "I think they like to see that a student worked, because it shows them that person can balance many aspects of their life, and manage their time well."

Working while going to school is something many college students have to deal with. Both Miller and Rothenberg are two examples of students that not only take on the responsibility of going to school and maintaining good grades, but also of trying to earn a living while doing so. While it isn't always easy, it is just what they have to do.