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Hi there. Here's a listicle of 8 snippets I thought I'd share from my EMBA experience so far.

It's a family affair. Going back to school will involve everyone you're close to. My 2-year old came on a road trip with me almost every class weekend during the first two semesters. Those Las Vegas to Phoenix trips brought Zoe and I closer. Other times I'd be holding my newborn, Jaime, during team conference calls. My wife and I would often have to balance our calendars around class schedules. I'm grateful she's done her MBA so it's great to bounce new ideas off her and have an intellectual conversation to reinforce the learning. Getting your family and friends onboard is crucial; you'll need them. Or at the very least their understanding.

You gotta do what you gotta do. You've decided to add at least another 20 hours of (school) work to your already busy life. You'll experience times when you've got to be creative just to be able to research, study for exams and get assignments done. In the first two semesters, I wrote about 90% of all my papers on my smartphone - mostly because I was either holding our newborn to sleep or had a random moment of insight or just didn't have the luxury to block off time in my calendar to sit in front of a computer and tap stuff out. Other times I'd have to scribble an idea on a napkin and come back to it later. You'll quickly find what works for you.

Seek to be wrong. You're likely good at what you do. You're an achiever, have ambition and already have plenty of experience. To get the most learning, you need to seek what you don't already know. And a lot of times this means trying to understand better answers or different perspectives. This involves checking your ego at the door and coming to class with a learning mindset. I've come away from every class weekend learning so much because I've forced myself to empty my mind in order to fill it with new knowledge. Sometimes certain lessons from class won't prove their usefulness until long after it's over.

There's method to the madness. Force yourself to see wisdom even when your strong opinions, biases and priors blind you from it. Sometimes I've been frustrated with certain lecture content, teaching methods and assignments because at the time, I didn't get the point of it all. This is an easy trap to fall into especially when pressures from your personal and professional life weigh on you and you race against time to get coursework done. When I experience these moments, I remind myself to have some faith in the program and try to force myself to see the other side.

Class weekends are your getaway. For the next two years, treat every class weekend like your retreat. It's your time to let go of other important things in your life and focus on building a better you. However even if you set this expectation with your family or work colleagues, it can be difficult to fully disengage. But try your best. Your learning and that of your classmates depend on it. My wife was due to give birth during orientation week. Imagine how distracted I was! A few months ago, we bought a new house and I've been excited about it and distracted

since. I've learned to keep my phone as far from me as possible during class. This was difficult to do at first but essential to your class experience.

There's always someone smarter. Particularly in the beginning, you might experience a strong temptation to demonstrate how smart you are or how much experience you have under your belt. This is a natural tendency and you might hear it referred to as "performance-prove" mindset. That is, the tendency to want to prove that you're a high performer. I certainly felt this too but had to quickly pivot to a learning orientation. Over time you'll learn a lot from your classmates and get a glimpse of their intellect and experience. I've certainly gained lots of great insight from my cohort. Every class I look forward to testing my ideas, my thoughts and perspectives because I know that by being open to the idea that I'm not the smartest person in the room, I stand to gain a ton of learning.

Get uncomfortable. One of the best ways to learn is to throw yourself in the deep end. If you're finding coursework easy, then you need to seek other perspectives or reasons you might be wrong. Sometimes this means approaching someone you may be uncomfortable with. Go ahead and deliberately work in their team. I was a shy kid but over time had to force myself to approach people who are not like me. Dive in into course content particularly when it's unfamiliar. I usually don't get headaches but I've walked away many times with my head pounding (in a good way) from all the learning I'm gaining from unfamiliar or uncomfortable content. As an Australian who migrated to the US 3 years ago, part of this unfamiliarity is due to the differences between our cultures.

Use your time wisely. Taking on this EMBA will significantly alter your lifestyle. You'll have to make trade offs and be even more ruthless with how you spend your time. In the first year of this program, I will have driven over 16,000 miles to attend class. That's almost 300 hours behind the wheel. Luckily for me I love to drive. I use this time to think about new concepts and frameworks I've learned, cases I've read or answers to quizzes. For me, this is also the perfect time to catch up on podcasts and audiobooks especially related to the course topics for that quarter. In the second year, I'll be flying between Seattle and Phoenix and will do the same to maximize my time. When you're in class, focus on learning to make the most of the opportunity.

These two years are fast becoming the most memorable and most intellectually satisfying period of my professional life so far. It really is an experience to enjoy. Embrace the highs, the lows, the disruption, the stress, but most of all embrace the tremendous growth you'll go through in such a short time.

See you around.