

## **ABSTRACT**

**THESIS:** Work-life experiences of college students

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This research seeks to understand college students' experiences regarding issues of work-life through qualitative thematic analyses of semi-structured interviews with current students. The increase of personal responsibilities compounded with widespread stress and mental health concerns among college students suggests that students are currently struggling with competing demands in their multiple roles. How college students discuss issues of work-life in the anticipatory socialization stage of organizational socialization and the memorable messages students receive that shape their ideas are insightful for both organizational communication researchers and professionals seeking to hire these students. In addition, this research examines how the overarching cultural norms regarding work and life permeate discussions in this transitional period in college students' lives.