

DAILY NEWS

Class of 2015: Anthony Musco balances finance classes at Baruch College with work and commutes

BY STEPHEN CHAN | SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS
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For Anthony Musco, college is quickly becoming one huge juggling act.

Between classes, extracurricular activities and two part-time jobs, Musco, 20, doesn't have time for much else, but the Rockland County native handles it all with optimism and perseverance.

Musco, who calls himself a "suburb kid," set his sights on Manhattan after deciding to study finance. He first considered New York University, but ultimately chose to attend CUNY's Baruch College, where tuition is far more affordable.

"Considering I'm paying for college myself, it was a huge factor," he says.

Showing off his red reusable lunchbox, Musco reveals that he packs food from home to offset the tuition, transportation and cell-phone costs he shoulders.

"It's a big tackle, but I definitely think it helps me appreciate my education a lot more."

Aside from the bills, Musco's other big obstacle is his packed schedule. Every morning he takes the train from Rockland County — an hour-and-a-half commute — hits the school gym and catches up on homework before stepping into his first class, English.

This fall, Musco is taking an 18-credit semester at Baruch while working part-time at a gym back home and helping his father, a commercial real estate appraiser, with clerical tasks.

"It's just schoolwork and more work," he laughs. "I don't get a lot of down time. But I know it's going to pay off eventually."

Musco has also joined the Finance and Economics Society, one of many student-organized clubs at Baruch, and

hopes to add even more activities to his roster.

Although he has had only a couple of weeks to take in Baruch's atmosphere and freshman life, Musco raves about the school and his fellow students.

"I would definitely say Baruch is diverse. People come from so many different backgrounds, nationalities, interests. You don't get the carbon-copy student from class to class," he says. "It's really like a microcosm of the city."

As for the faculty, Musco gives the professors "an A-plus."

"They're all very personable. I can't think of any professors in my classes that I don't have a good social connection with or have not taken time or effort to try to help a student who didn't understand something."

Despite such a full plate, Musco is already thinking about all the things he can do in his four years as an undergraduate.

He is working toward a floor-trainer certification at his gym and looking into studying abroad so he can learn another language next summer, possibly German or Mandarin.

"I know that's a big undertaking, but I think it's worth it," he says. "I mean, you kind of have to these days. My classmates all know two or three languages. It makes me feel weird to be just a monoglot."

Asked about exhaustion, Musco chuckles and replies, "I know that every day I come to school I'm opening another opportunity for my future. It's just a good overall feeling."



Manny Romero / Baruch College

Text courtesy of Stephen Chan, special to the Daily News