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About the Author

As the mother of two, and working full-time, Nicolla obtained her Masters degree. Now, with an infant in tow, this mother of three pursues her Ph.D.

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THE MOMMY JUGGLE

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There is no limit to what the human spirit is capable of miraculously performing. Some things seem virtually impossible when early projections are made, but when a determined person skillfully considers taking on challenges, many doubts dissipate along the journey. I firmly believe if a person wants something badly enough, she will find her way through the maze of distractions. Earning a Ph.D. and raising a family is not the simplest or wisest mission to challenge, because each objective runs perpendicular to the other.

After having a baby, I have skillfully and objectively learned to accomplish the arts of breastfeeding, studying, and writing. Breastfeeding happens 24 hours a day. Studying and writing, however, are treated as full time careers in the nighttime; I refer to them as “graveyard” or “moonlighting” duties — keeping the day job while preparing for the future.

Most importantly, I continuously learn to pace myself and not get upset when the course of the day does not allow me to handle everything I set out to accomplish. This is usually handled through proper timing, by giving myself a cushion on projects.

The most inspiring words that build perseverance and endurance often come from my children. My 5-year-old daughter recently said, “Mommy I didn’t know you could be a Ph.D., I thought you were just my Mommy.”