



SDSU Student Accounting Society

Meeting Minutes: FBI “Forensic Accounting”

October 22, 2018

Presenters:

Daniel Valles, CPA	Forensic Accountant
Emelyn Valles, CFE	Forensic Accountant SDSU alum
Angela Wynn	Special Agent

Presentation:

- FBI Mission and priorities
 - Mission: to protect the American people and uphold Constitution of the US
- What FBI investigates
 - Complex financial crimes
 - Corporate fraud, securities and commodities fraud, financial institutional fraud, mortgage fraud, healthcare fraud
 - Investigate other crimes such as:
 - Counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cyber crime, drugs/gangs, organized crime, public corruption, violent crime
- Forensic accounting overview
 - The integrative of accounting, auditing, and investigative skills to provide quantitative financial info suitable for a court of law
- Forensic accountants in the FBI
 - Forensic Accountant Program (FAP) created within the Criminal investigative division in March '09
 - FAP and the forensic accountant position were created to:
 - Enhance and professionalize the FBI's financial investigative capabilities
 - Attract top tier accounting professionals, capable of conducting complex forensic financial investigations
- Where do forensic accountants at FBI come from?
 - Private sector, public firms, industry
- Forensic accountant qualifications
 - Education: bachelor's and/or master's degree in Accounting or bachelor's with 24 Accounting semester hours
 - Specialized work experience
 - Certifications preferred

- CPA, CFE, CFF
- Overview of duties
 - **(1) Investigate** and develop financial profiles of individuals or groups
 - Accompany FBI agents on interviews of subjects/witnesses
 - Participate in gathering evidence
 - Assist in preparing affidavits/warrants associated with financial analyses
 - **(2) Examine** financial analyses of business/personal records
 - identify/trace funding sources and interrelated transactions
 - **(3) Collaborate** and conduct investigations with private industry partners and other government agencies
 - **(4) Communicate** by compiling findings/conclusions in financial investigative reports and exhibits, provide knowledge regarding accounting/industry practices
 - **(5) Testify** and develop analyses for criminal proceedings; testify as a fact or expert witness in judicial proceedings
- Special Agent v. Forensic accountant
 - Quantico training 5 weeks
 - Ability to transfer, additional pay with comp/OT
 - No guns, ability to arrest, or fitness test required for forensic accountants
- Other accounting careers in the FBI
 - Auditor (GS9/GS12)
 - Financial operations specialist (GS7/GS9)
 - Budget analyst (GS9/11)
 - Financial manager (GS13)
- Eligibility
 - Must be U.S. citizen, no felony convictions, no drugs, no default of student loan (can't let it go into collections), failure of FBI polygraph, failure to register with selective service system
 - Selective service system is only for male U.S. citizens

Questions:

- What is the draw for accountants to apply for FBI?
 - (Daniel's answer) You know you're doing something to help the community. Your work as an accountant is really doing what the FBI mission is, which is something you're not able to do in corporate world.
 - (Emily's answer) Forensic accountants are the voices of the victims because you're investigating crimes that were allegedly committed. You get to help bring the crimes to justice and it's very intrinsically rewarding.
- Can you explain more about the pay and hours?
 - It's a salaried position. You don't get paid OT but you get paid comp time.
 - Example: working an hour extra on Friday, you can take off the next Friday

- Fixed schedule, 9-5 job
 - Never have to work 60-90 hours like in public accounting and no Saturday workdays
- What is training like for new hires?
 - Spend 5 weeks at FBI academy in Quantico learning about legal process
- Why is there a recent shift to hiring younger forensic accountants fresh from college?
 - They see it as a benefit to grow their forensic accountants internally. Students may see other FBI positions not related to forensic accounting that they're interested in and it's a great transition since they're already working for the FBI.
 - FBI also pays for your CPA certification.