



SDSU Student Accounting Society

Meeting Minutes: Considine & Considine

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Presenters:

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Presentation:

Firm History

- Founded in 1946
- Moved to mission valley
- One of the largest

Departments

- Audit
- Business services
 - Gas station
 - Hotels
 - Restaurant
- Tax
 - Actually inputting into the tax software
- Estate & trust/Retirement
 - Do retirement plans
 - Pension plans
 - Trust returns
- Professional service
 - Work with professionals
- Real Estate
- Consulting
 - Very SD based firm

Recruiting

- Office tour - august or september
 - Apply on SDSU career services

- Internships
 - Offered during spring and summer
 - Implemented summer of 2015
 - June to august, it is paid
- Interview process:
 - October - November
 - First Interview on campus
 - Second Interview In-house
 - Two different people
 - We do not have local recruiting so they are more limited in time as compared to bigger firms
 - TIP: you can always send an

Stress and Time Management

Work Environment

- Encouraged to maintain work-life balance
- Expected hours
 - Vary by department
 - At staff level no more that 15 hours per week
 - Audit has the most with 15 at staff level
- Overtime compensations

Work-Life Balance

- Happy hours
- Softball & Volleyball teams
- Sports events & Picnics
- Department Fun Days

Time Management

- Communication
 - Key, there is open-door policy you can ask questions at any time
 - Communicate if you can't figure out the solution
- Prioritization
 - Work in order that you get projects in
 - You might have to prioritize what the firm wants
 - At the end of the day it all has to get done, but be aware of deadlines
- One objective at a time
 - Sometimes you have to do one project at a time so it is not overwhelming
 - If you put the effort in it will get done

- Understanding your own learning curve
 - Know what works best for you, can relate it to how you study in school, finals, what
 - TIPS: experience: just started working in retirement department. Taking detailed notes in order to learn more and have it written down for future reference. He struggled with remembering information of what he was working on before, He fully explains thought process for each client and have it organized.

Time Management

- Learning how to multi-task
 - More going on as you get to supervisor positions
- Take notes & set reminders
 - You forget what you work on after weekend or another client
 - Put important dates and tasks in the calendar
 - It is simple things but it makes it easier
 - When someone starts its better to take notes to refer back to
- Budget your time
 - You should know when to ask questions if the task is taking too long
 - You don't want to waste time spinning wheels
 - Ask questions to how it will last

Stress Management

- Incorporate breaks into your schedule
 - When studying for CPA exam your brain can only take so much, taking a day off helps
- Consult with other co-workers
 - Venting is normal, maybe another coworker can offer some advice
 - As long as talking doesn't take the entire day
- Take full-lunch away from your desk
 - It helps to get away from the desk and break up the middle of the day
 - Get your blood pumping and come back refreshed
- Activities outside of work
 - Playing sports or going to the gym
 - Cooking so you can bring lunch and dinner
 - Rock climbing, during busy season you are in the office a lot
- Refrain from overworking yourself
 - There is always going to be work, take a day at a time
 - Try to make use of the time and plan your day out

Questions:

Feedback if firm tour is beneficial?

- It is awesome, it was one of the coolest experiences. After the tour there is a reception banquet, and didn't know what to do. Next time, to introduce myself to other people and step out of comfort zone
- Usually tours are fast and you don't get to know many people. You want to get feel of the firm.
- Considine feels that it is beneficial to recruiting, if other firms have office tours you should go and establish relationships/connections

How was studying for the CPA while working at C&C?

- I was out of college and it was harder. You should do it right after while you are in studying mode. Once I was serious about it, utilized the conference room to do studying 5 hours. It is a year of your life, but it is worth it. Over the summer try to knock out 2 of them
- Don't buy the materials until you are serious. The study materials are expensive and there is a time window. I started in July and would study at home 2-3 hours monday to thursday, and then 5 hours on Sunday. I used Becker, lecture and practice problems. If you are serious about accounting you should do it!
- It's hard after working, you can g

What's the hardest section of CPA exam?

- Depends on the person. FAR is the hardest for me, you need the skills
- BEC was the hardest because it was more cost accounting

Is there a limit to how many you can take

- You have 18 months to pass all of them, the first can expire. You take one a quarter when you are working. Each test requires about 2 months of studying

Spring Leadership posting

- Some want to do internship to get the foot in the door
- For spring internship we are going to do one, less hours than summer. It's hard to work around class schedules.
- Let us know if you are interested in internships, they keep up the names of who are interested
- Our internships are what a full staff would do. The only difference is as a staff you have clients.