



# SDSU Student Accounting Society

## Meeting Minutes: RSM & Becker CPA [The Power of Being Understood]

10/7/19

### **Presenters:**

RSM: Andria (campus recruiter), Cambell (Audit), travis (tax partner), Brian (tax manager), Karren (tax associate)

Becker: Nahall

### **Presentation:**

Becker:

Why CPA?

- Has greater demand
- Created bigger career growth
  - About 75% of CPAs going to retire in 2020
- Difference pays out well
  - Gain 10-15% greater payout

Steps to becoming CPA

1. Apply to take the CPA exam
2. Study for the exam
  - a. Create study plan
    - i. Usually the minimum study time is 13-15 hours per week to have a chance to pass the exams. (usually students have to study longer than this though)
  - b. study
3. Schedule the exam
4. Succeed!
  - a. Pass all four parts and the ethics exam
  - b. Apply for licensure

Do you need 150 units to sit for the exam?

- NO! But you will need 120 units, 24 accounting hours and 24 business hours to sit

Which exam will you start with?

- Usually want to start with FAR since it is the hardest and most material out of the sections
- Once you take your first test you will have 18 months to finish the rest of the exams

How many testlets are on the exam?

- 5 testlets

Adapt2u - powered by Sana Labs

- Becker CPA Exam Review is now powered by sana labs which is leading in AI technology

Becker is the leader in CPA prep

- 1 million candidates have prepared with Becker
- Becker is supported by the top 100 accounting firms for their employees
- 90% of Watt Sells award winners (2005-2018) prepared by Becker

RSM:

RSM Overview

- Primarily focuses on middle market companies
  - Example clients in San Diego: Drunk Elephant, Sunbun, Stone Brewing, etc.
- Is a culture of diversity and inclusion
  - Has many different groups within the firm that are like clubs
  - Examples: InspirAsian, Pride, AACE, etc.
- Stewardship
  - Foundation of RSM
  - Build tomorrow's middle market
  - Focus on community work to help out communities in need
- Power your Education Scholarship
  - Opens 10, \$10,000 scholarship to any student in the US
  - Create a 30 second video about your vision of the power of being understood

Submitted Questions

- What are some of the ways you like to de-stress during busy season?
  - Firm will provide lunch and dinner
  - Be able to take an hour to yourself to de-stress if having an off day
- What are the working hours really like, especially during the busy season?
  - Average working hours around 55 to 60 hours, but depends on the clients you have

- Does not like employees to work more than 65 hours
- Does RSM offer any incentives for trying to stay healthy?
  - Do not have incentives, but do have programs that does promote this
  - Has discounts on gym memberships and has a weekly yoga instructor
  - Has meetings on how to eat healthily and prepare meals for yourself during the busy season
- Do you, as RSM employees, feel like you're making an impact on the community through your work?
  - RSM has given out 10 million dollars to selected communities in the past 5 years
  - Assurance side is proud of the value they provide to their clients
- What is one thing you would tell yourself as a student coming out of college, getting your start in the workforce?
  - Start the CPA exam as soon as you can
  - Start getting involved in the firm to create a better experience with the firm
- Does RSM have any procedures or programs that help students transition into the workplace?
  - Has a one week training learning the software and basic training of the requirements for respected field
  - Also trains employees on how to have dinner with the clients
  - New employees has a buddy, or navigator, to ask basic questions to have a better transition into being with the firm
- Was there ever a time you doubted if you really enjoyed your work?
  - Simple answer, YES
  - Hardest thing about job is how fast you have to learn and the stress that comes with that
  - But the work you do can be rewarding as you grow your knowledge in accounting
  - Kind of have to have a "stick to it" mentality where you work gets constantly reviewed by higher management and have to constantly fix your mistakes and can be fairly daunting

**Questions:**

Does the becker program give you advice on how long to study per section?

Yes it does!

What is the required percentage to pass the exam?

Have to get at least a 75% on each test.

How many simulations are on each test?

Depends on the exam you are taking, but Becker has simulated exams that replicates what to expect on each exam.

How open in the year do you recruit for interns?

First wave is Spring recruiting for the summer leadership positions and most likely will get an internship opportunity afterwards. Also going through Internship recruiting right now through the fall