



# SDSU Student Accounting Society

## [Aldrich Services - Beginning Your Career]

November 12, 2020

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### **Presentation:**

#### **Aldrich CPAs + Advisors**

- Quick Facts
  - Founded January 1974 as AKT
    - Became Aldrich in 2017 to honor founder Kent Aldrich
  - Salem, Oregon founding place and present headquarters
  - West Coast Base
  - Offices in
    - California
    - Oregon
    - Alaska
    - India
  - Culture is one of Aldrich's best strengths
- Company groups
  - Aldrich CPAs and Advisors LLP
  - Aldrich Wealth LP
  - Aldrich Retirement Solutions LP
  - Aldrich Benefits LP
  - Aldrich Capital Advisors LP
  - Aldrich Technology LP
  - Mainly CPA firm
- Served Industries
  - Utilities
  - Veterinary
  - Agriculture
  - Engineers
  - Communications
  - Dental
  - Food + Beverage
  - Growth Companies
  - Healthcare
  - You name it, we do it

- Basics
  - Start of Recruiting
    - Score a coffee date
    - 1 week
  - Summer Leadership Program
    - Sometimes doesn't happen
    - Most of the time does happen
    - 1-2 days
  - Internship
    - Summer/Spring internship
    - No Fall Busy Season
    - 10-12 weeks
  - Associate
    - Won't become associate until you are done with Masters/Bachelors degree
    - A lot happens at a fast pace
    - 2-3 years
  - Senior Associate
    - Managing clients
    - Managing workflow
    - Managerial role and associate work
    - Determine industry + niche
    - 3-5 or 2-4 years
  - Manager
    - Control of client
    - 8-10 years
  - Senior Manager
    - Manager of firm and processes
    - What do you provide
  - Partner
    - Owner
    - Dominate flow of firm
- Tax vs. Audit
  - Tax -- IRC
  - Audit -- AICPA
  - Audit is consistently busy
  - Tax is really busy for periods of time
  - Taxes are normally quick
    - 3-4 a day at least
  - Audit
    - Same audit for a month
- Tips For Success
  - Focus on building relationships with peers, superiors, and clients

- Introduce yourself
  - Most firms are very inviting and understanding
  - People want to build relationships with you
- Be hungry to learn and try new things
  - Major updates 2-3 years
  - Refreshing or completely replacing knowledge
- Actively seek out feedback and find areas of improvement
  - Get lots of review notes every step of the way
  - Get someone who gives constant review notes
  - Not personal, just helpful criticism
- Set goals for yourself
  - Develop relationships
  - Open dialogue with goals
- Not just accountant and not just student
  - Find 1-2 topics you can connect with
  - Find 2-3 topics that can be brief
  - Firm provides itself with good culture
  - Connect with other people
  - Get to know everybody
  - Set up virtual happy hour
- School and work is different

**Questions:**

- No Summer Leadership or Internship during school?
  - Not the end of the line
  - Were you working during school
  - Get work experience
  - Develop experience
  - Work through periods where a lot has to be juggled
  - Work during and after school year
  - Not uncommon
  - Get a taste of CPA firm
  - Interns have finished school work
  - Get experience
- School and Work worries
  - Needs to be perfect
  - Stress is higher at school
  - Similar to school
  - Deadlines are there
    - Constantly aware
  - Learning is with each engagement
  - Independent learning is present
  - School: All you do only affects you
  - Work: All you do affects many and you

- Certain levels of review
- Not stress-free
- Two main people for help on school is professor and TA
- Full office for help on work
  - Supporting cast helps reduce stress
- Not on one person
- Not alone in it
- Number one skill learned in school
  - Critical thinking and problem solving
  - Excel skills are critical
  - Excel wizards are learning new things every day
  - 80% of work is done on Excel
    - VLookup and Summit are essential
    - XLookup is recommended
  - Individual Taxation
  - Can ask professors to be references
- Audit/Tax duality
  - Development as Intern and Associate taken seriously
  - Pool program
  - Interns and Associates can bounce between audit and tax
  - Summer: Audit
  - Winter: Tax
  - Not very common to have expertise in both
  - Senior level: Know your niche
  - Show better performance with one over another
  - You will also like one over another
  - Have to decide which one to take
  - Beginning phase: Hard to decide
  - Never experience outside world
  - Summer Leadership Conferences are recommended
  - Auditors travel a lot
  - Being remote: Work wherever
- Graduate
  - 2 months between graduation date and start date
  - 1 month between graduation date and start date
  - 3-4 days: Apply to CBA to sit for CPA
  - Once you can, start studying for CPA
  - Submit bits of information to CBA as soon as they become available
  - Purchase review course one week after graduation
  - BMAcc option: letter provided from DeBoskey allowing you to
  - 4-5 years of college are to be kept and enjoyed