



# SDSU Student Accounting Society

## Meeting Minutes: [Service Line Panel]

February 18th, 2021

### Presenters:

Eric(KPMG), Jeff (Deloitte), Justin(LLME), David Yanke(PWC), Megan( EY), Thomas (Bakertilly), Kendal(RSM)

### Presentation:

- Tell us about yourselves, your service line, and how you decided on that service.
  - Eric (KPMG): Indirect taxes, experienced hire
  - Jeff (Deloitte): 14 years, originally from New York, has been to Israel for a year, chose tax because it was chosen by his first internship, a tax partner, and decided to stick with it
  - Justin (LLME): Graduated from SDSU in 2008, started as tax for three years, he had an aunt who got him in touch, didn't have undergrad experience, 10 years later and he is an audit manager
  - David Yanke(PWC): Graduated from state 2019, insurance group at PWC, interested in seeing how clients work and see the bigger picture
  - Megan (EY): 3 years with EY, alumni with state, went back for masters, tax manager
  - Thomas (Bakertilly): audit and insurance group, native San Diegan, chose audit because, of forensic auditing, like the puzzle-solving aspect, combined with marketing
  - Kendall (RSM): senior manager, audit, really wanted to learn about different businesses, wanted to be in the field
  
- What is one piece of advice you have for students making a decision between different service lines?
  - Justin- if you have good fundamentals of each you can do it, a matter of connection, tax is for more connected. On the audit side, you have a much deeper connection with your clients. At the end of the day, don't feel you are stuck, you can make it work.
  - Jeff- each service line works in conjunction, always have the option to change, tax is teaming, audit is teaming, all are working together and working remote during this time
  
- How can students best prepare for going into your service line?

- Thomas(audit/assurance)-as you are starting off, I don't think you are going to apply everything you have learned in school, it is a small percentage of what you will use in the field. Organization, communication skills are important, those soft skill sets will set you apart.
  - Megan- have an open mind, come into the profession willing to learn. Organization is key.
  - David- you are going to have some experience from school, but you are going to be taught on the job, willing to ask questions. Understand what you are doing this way you can apply this to the next job.
  - Kendall- being a good writer, have those writing skills is important, get good at writing emails.
  - Justin- learn excel, being proficient will be very helpful
  - Eric- research power PI, Alt ticks, these are helpful
  - Jeff- having an open mind, be ready to learn over the first few years
- What is an important lesson you learned in your service line?
    - Eric Gee - Make sure you are building really good relationships with other students, and the professionals you work with
    - Kendall- You may be so busy with the technical aspect with your clients, but don't be afraid to get to know them on a personal level
    - Thomas Kenaya- At the end of the day, this is a people business, not just the numbers

### **Questions:**

- Is there anything you could have done better during your college experience?
  - Justin- came out thinking, you are going to study really hard, and know what you are doing, but what is more important, taking great notes and using resources around you, learn as you start in the professor, learn as you go.
  - Jeff- take basic bio courses, know your industry, speak the lingo of the clients.
- In regards to the CPA, when do you receive it?
  - Kendall- Passed within the first year, the longer you wait the harder it is to study for, you lose study habits, of work starts getting too busy. Breaking it up into parts will be beneficial.
  - Megan- took it when working full time, it can be very hectic, the longer you put it off, the next thing you know you are a senior and you are cramming in order to be promoted.
  - David- passing within your first year you can possibly receive a bonus
  - Jeff- if you wait a year or two, you can see the impact already of what the pandemic has done to the halt of paperwork

- What challenges do you see in your respective service line, and how do you overcome them?
  - Thomas- the timelines, is a challenge. You get used to it though, plan early and know going into knowing something may slip, and have a plan B
  - Megan- There are always changes to the law, so it may be hard to keep up with.
  - Justin- it is not just accounting, it is people and time management. Manage expectations, being good at communicating.
  
- Can you describe a day in your service line?
  - Jeff- Not every day is the same. You have calls, meetings. It is always interesting never a dull day.
  - David- things are always changing, with an audit, we have status calls, coaching meetings, although virtual, there is still a great team effort,
  - Megan- sporadic, coaching, and talking to clients, always changing, hard to set a strict schedule because you never know what is going to pop up
  
- The difference between the busy season and the regular season?
  - Jeff- having those skills to being open and willing to transition, and using the time to study
  - David, use the soft skills, leadership, management, organization. There is a lot to do during the busy season, but it goes by quickly, there is a lot to do. During non-busy season, it is always encouraged to take time off in order to reset.
  - Kendall- Do your homework on incoming clients, prepare and understand the accounting of the sections you are going to be working on, this way you don't have to learn on the fly.
  
- How has technology affected the accounting industry?
  - Thomas- technology is on the horizon, personally, audit procedures, even journal entries, the simple tasks are being transformed. From paper to computer to the cloud, to soft-ware
  - Jeff- from starting it completely changed, using technology has made these tasks easier
  - Thomas- tech, allows us to be more involved, we aren't being replaced, yet assisted.
  - Jeff- XPRL was said to rid the accounting field, but that was 15 years ago, tech is not coming to take jobs away, but instead facilitate tasks
  - Megan- the tech has really assisted during the pandemic, internal uses, and communication between the client. It has really shifted the mindset of working from home
  
- Do you have any suggestions for students who have yet to take an audit or tax class?
  - Megan- EY offers case studies that give you an idea/insight of what you may prefer, however it is really about being on the job and contacting professionals

- Megan- even if you take classes, it is not going to be the end all be all, it is really only background information. Don't rely too much on college experience.