



SDSU Student Accounting Society

Meeting Minutes: Aldrich Finding Your Place in Public Accounting

11/4/2021

Presenters:

Hayley Dolfay: HR Assistant & Campus Recruiter

Mary Quammouh: Staff

Jennifer Seifert: Manager, Non Profit & Governmental Clients

Chad Fischer: Tax

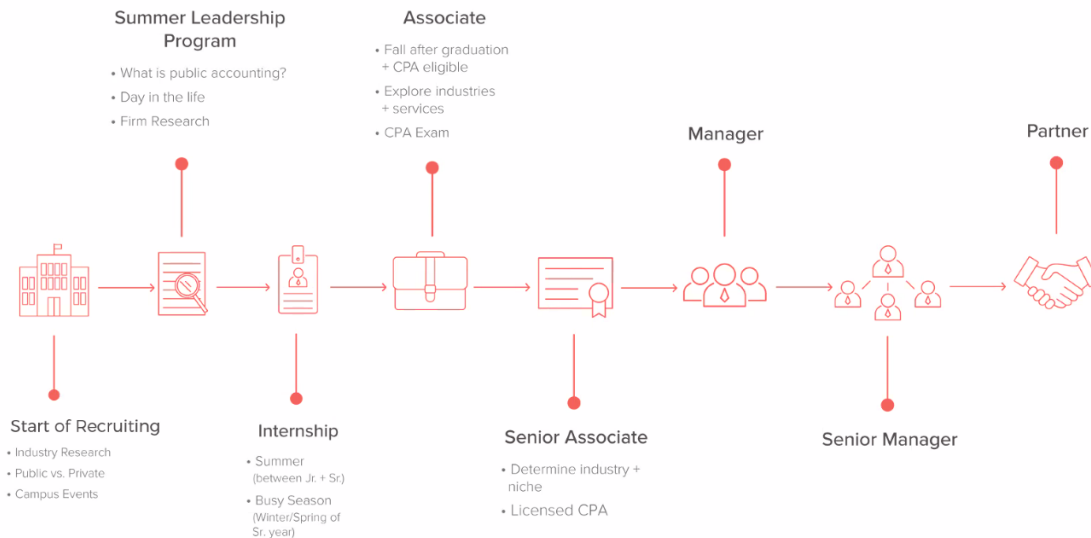
Presentation:

Quick Facts

- Founded in 1973 as Aldrich, Killbride & Tatone
- AKT becomes Aldrich in 2017 to honor our firm's founder, Kent Aldrich
- West Coast Based regional firm with offices in:
 - California
 - Oregon
 - Alaska
- Our group of companies
 - Aldrich CPAS + Advisors LLP
 - Aldrich Wealth LP
 - Aldrich Retirement Solutions LP
 - Aldrich Benefits LP
 - Aldrich Capital Advisors
 - Aldrich Technology LP
- More than a CPA firm--Full Financial Services Practice
 - Audit/Assurance
 - Business Consulting
 - Employee Benefits
 - Private Client Services
 - Etc.
- Niche based firm: Teams are experts for certain industries
 - Agriculture & Farming
 - Construction
 - Nonprofit

- Real Estate
- Architects & Engineers
- Etc.
- Our Mission: Helping our clients achieve their goals
- Our Vision: To be a lasting business with an entrepreneurial spirit that drives our desire to be leaders in the market we serve
- Our Purpose: To improve the lives of our people, our clients, and our communities

Beginning your career in Public Accounting



- Jennifer: Pleasantly surprised by what Aldrich had to offer
 - Joined accounting as a transfer student to SDSU
 - Didn't know what she was getting into at first!
 - Expected public accounting to be much more cutthroat
 - Aldrich was full of many bright people!
 - Advice: your experience may be very different from what you imagined it to be
 - Absorb as much information as you can, but remember to take advantage of the non-work things as well, such as social events
 - Making time for those things so you can get to know the people you are working with better
- Chad:
 - Interned for two years because of the people
 - Was able to work on Audit and Tax
 - Tax Returns and R&D for Construction firms
 - For the internship, you are doing work right away.
 - You feel like you're part of the team right away
 - Gives you a sense of ownership of the work that you're doing!
- Mary:
 - Started in July, did not do an internship
 - Worked with a small business in their accounting department instead

- Has the ability to try both tax and audit
- Currently working on passing the CPA exam
 - “Treat it like a part time job”
- Everyone is nervous going into public accounting...but remember that everyone “equally knows nothing.”
 - Most of what you need for the job will be learned on the job
- Be confident in yourself, don’t be worried going into public accounting!

Tax vs Audit

- It’s important for people to recruit ASAP so they can get experience while they’re still in school
 - Try to put yourself in a position in which you can do both
 - As a new associate, Aldrich can provide you the opportunity to switch between tax and audit when you first begin with the firm
- Audit: Thrown right into the client experience right away. Going to the client site, talking with them, working with the team right away
 - Multiple staff level people working on the same thing at the same time. More collaborative right away
 - Work on fewer clients at once
- Tax: Team effort as well, work on the client yourself. Prepare your own returns, have someone review it, work together to find complications.
 - Work on many clients at once
- Similarities:
 - Must be detail oriented--Make sure that in the end, you catch all errors

Tips for Success

- Try to pass your CPA exam ASAP
- Focus on building relationships with peers, superiors, & clients
- Be hungry to learn & try new things
- Actively seek out feedback and find areas to improve
- Set goals for yourself

Questions:

How can you handle stress during busy season?

Chad: The reality of public accounting is the added stress of tight deadlines. The way you can handle it is by realizing that there is a deadline, a light at the end of the tunnel. At the end of big stretches of hard work, we plan events. During busy season, we’ll sit and talk with each other about things other than work. Little things like food catering, occasional happy hours, will help relieve stress.

Mary: The first week or two can be an information overload. People know that you won’t retain anything. Take what you can and just ask a lot of questions. Grabbing coffee or having a short conversation with someone can help you regroup and be ready for the rest of the day

Jennifer: Especially when remote, remember to ask for help and let people know how you are feeling. Prioritize interactions to keep yourself invested in the culture of the firm!