How to Prepare for Meet the Firms

Meet the Firms is generally an informal reception with a business dress code
- Firms usually bring new hires and alumni from SDSU
- Talk to the new hires and make a connection with them
- Eat before coming to the event—don’t linger around the food
- Be careful with what you eat before the event—brush your teeth and use mints
- Don’t chew gum while networking
- Speak loudly because there will be >300 people at the event
- Don’t let your nerves show through your body language
- Don’t wait until the end of the event to talk to the firms you want to talk to most
- Don’t go to your favorite firm first, get the jitters out and talk to another firm

What Employers are Evaluating
- Poise
- Confidence
- Leadership skills
- Communication, both written and verbal
- Whether you are a fit for their firm

Preparation Before Attending
- Research the firms and formulate questions to ask
- Assess your strengths and weaknesses
- Talk to students who have attended for tips
- Dress for success

Back Pocket Basics
- Be mindful of appearance and hygiene
- Make eye contact
- Place the name tag on your right side
- Be confident
- Give a firm and professional hand shake, no fish hands
- Dress Professionally
Men:
  o Keep away from certain novelty ties
  o Stay close to the core colors—gray, black, and navy

Women:
  o When wearing a skirt be mindful of the length
  o Be mindful of the neckline
  o Wear a jacket
  o Don’t have your hair cover your nametag
  o Wear professional shoes—flats are acceptable

Think About Your End Goal
  • Short term - midterms
  • Long term - make partner, manager, become CPA certified
  • Personal - work, life balance

Resumes
  • Bring enough for at least 2 per table
  • Include accounting experience
  • Include leadership roles and clubs
  • Keep your resumes in a professional folder
  • Be sure your resume attracts the job that you want
  • Have your resume reviewed
  • Don’t
    o Make up job experience
    o Write too much
    o Make common mistakes
    o Write an objective and send a cover letter
    o Exceed 1 page
  • Do:
    o Use numbers
    o Use action words
    o Be mindful of spacing

Make a Good First Impression
  • Give a good handshake
  • Eye contact
  • Maintain good posture

Behavior During Meet the Firms
  • Get to the event on time
  • Go with a friend or meet someone there, but do not stick with a group
  • Treat MTF as a learning experience
  • Bring multiple copies of your resume
  • Strategize your targets
  • Relax
Conversation Process
• Ask Questions
• Listen carefully
• Avoid negative topics
• End with an open door
• Collect a business card
• Take notes of your conversation
• Follow up promptly with an email or thank you letter

2014 California Education Requirements for Licensure
• 150 units
• 24 semester units in accounting
• 24 semester units in business-related courses
• http://www.rogercpareview.com/California-cpa-requirements/

Roger CPA Offers:
• An online review course
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