



SDSU Student Accounting Society

[Audit/Tax Panel]

[Audit & Tax Professionals Q&A]

Presenters:

Michael Green (Squar Milner); Nick (Frank, Rimerman); Allison Beece (RSM); David Yanke (PwC); Maggie (PwC); Matt Dinsdale (Moss Adams); Megan Lightfoot (EY); Adam (KPMG), (Grant Thornton), Justin Betyar (LLME)

Fixed Questions:

- Why did you choose audit/tax?
 - Nick-Tax (Frank, Rimerman) (Peaks and Valleys are predictable, Know when to take vacation)
 - Michael-Audit (Squar Milner) (Grew up in Sydney working in Big 4, Met wife at Price, Hated tax, Liked business, Audit gives business understanding, Audit useful for business, Code sections sucked)
 - Allison-Tax (RSM) (Can't do audit, take inventory of classes you enjoy, get experience whenever necessary)
 - Matt-Assurance/Audit (Moss Adams) (Looked at different pathways, Lots of opportunities, more aligned in personality, Enjoy working with clients and going where they are)
 - Megan-Tax (EY) (Meshed well with tax professor, applicable to general life)
 - Adam-Audit (KPMG) (Followed along with friends, got exposure and enjoyed audit more)
 - Justin-Audit (LLME) (No right or wrong answer, learn how to interact/react with clients, compliance vs control testing, core accounting should be strong,)
 - David-Assurance/Audit (PwC) (Wasn't a tax guy, strong interest in financial accounting, interest led to teaching job, learn more about business, enjoyed large team engagement in audit)
 - Maggie-Tax (PwC) (Mix of clients enjoyable, tax is cool, liked extracurriculars, tax consulting was enjoyable, thought she loved audit, did not enjoy frequent, crazy commuting)
- What is one piece of advice you have for students who are making a decision between audit or tax?
 - Matt (Moss Adams) -- (Look at your long-term goals and see which one makes the most sense, see if you enjoy branch's base responsibilities, extroverts and introverts in both branches, core concepts should be enjoyable, try both and see which one sticks)

- Allison (RSM) -- (Take inventory of classes you enjoy, get experience whenever necessary, know all of your options, there are so many things under each umbrella and possible segues that tie in both umbrellas)
- Justin (LLME) -- (Get internships, build rapport, ask questions, introvert vs. extrovert not necessarily applicable, homebase vs. travelling, get experience and see both sides)
- Adam (KMPG) -- (Take time to research, enjoy subject matter, offer build-your-own-internship program)
- Michael (Squar Milner) -- (Personal decision, travel is not that big of a deal, people can be productive from home, irreversible change to office expectations, travel depends on where you are, internship in office with accounting department can broaden perspective, you can always switch if applicable)
- How can students best prepare for going into the audit/tax?
 - Megan (EY) -- (Learn what your role you can be, know your role, know what your day might encompass, learn to be a team player, get to know professionals)
 - Nick (Frank, Rimerman) -- (Pay attention to financial and intermediate accounting classes, know your basics, know the debits and credits)
 - Maggie (PwC) -- (Don't stress, we expect to build you up, no expectations, know basics, strengthen project management skills, know how to prioritize, know how to work in groups, be organized)
 - David (PwC) -- (Understand your role, practice project management, know what you are going to bring to the team, understand managing stress, understanding responsibilities and expectations within teams)
 - Teamwork, organization, and preparation are key
- What is an important lesson you learned in your service line?
 - Megan (EY) (Tax) -- (Don't rely upon prior year's guidance, keep updating and learning, things change, constant learning opportunity, tax always changes)
 - Allison (RSM) (Tax) -- (Make sure you're always in touch with the tax team, tax professionals are vital and not to be forgotten)
 - Nick (Frank, Rimerman) -- (No such thing as overcommunication, if you think you should say it, say it. Always ask questions and keep up to date with emails)
 - Justin (LLME) (Audit) -- (Communicate with whoever you're working with, you have resources, go and talk to someone if you need help. Use communication and be effective with it. Don't spin your wheels)
 - Michael (Squar Milner) -- (I expect you to make mistakes, I expect you to not have a lot of experience, No question is stupid, Be trusted business advisors,

Always admit when you don't understand something, Success is desirable, Enthusiastic and asking questions)

- Why do you think your company hired you when you applied?
 - Matt (Moss Adams) -- (Never did an internship, got a job at a bookkeeping firm and did a variety of ways, work experience helped stand out, job in industry is good, job experience is good and allows you to understand clients)
 - David (PwC) -- (Work experience goes a long way, do something other than school, can you handle stress and multiple things at once, doing anything is better than doing nothing, have a strong GPA, resonance with PwC values, can we see them working with us and delivering on PwC values, can they fit in with company's purpose)
 - Maggie (PwC) -- (Be well-rounded, be involved, values should align with PwC, talk more about interests and values, making face, go to networking events and know the recruiters and other professionals, keep strong GPA, email professionals and try to schedule time with them)
 - Adam (KPMG) -- (Build relationships, make it "Nice to see you again" resonate with the presenters, get yourself out there = more ability to showcase yourself)
 - Megan (EY) -- (Don't burn your bridges, keep in contact with people you're in school with, Keep in contact)
 - Allison (RSM) -- (It's a two-way street, pay attention with how you feel with interviewers, use your gut, who do I want to be with when I'm at my worst)

Additional Questions:

- Maggie's CPA
 - Took courses at community college and minored in management, also had AP classes; ended up with a couple of minors
- Software for accounting
 - Allison (Tax) -- (Quickbooks, firm's exclusive tax software, CCH, bigger and better version of Quickbooks)
 - Maggie (Tax) -- (Tech and data analytics, upskilling)
 - Justin (Audit) -- (CCH, Excel, know what you're working with really well)
- Any possibility to enhance your presence in public accounting despite having a mediocre resume?
 - Justin -- (Be persistent, get anything you can, keep in touch with professionals, get in touch, befriend people and get advice on resume)
 - Maggie -- (Put whatever you can, Printed out resume and asked professionals/recruiters to edit resume, Ask for help on resume)
 - Nick -- (Always have interview, kill it in the interview, interview goes further than resume, use that interview to set yourself apart)
- Minors beneficial to accounting

- Megan -- (General Management, management classes are vital, Business minors)
- Maggie -- (Management - Corporate governance class, MIS minor - technology)