



SDSU Student Accounting Society

Meeting Minutes: Sempra Energy Job Search Basics

9/20/2021

Presenters:

Allana Hill--Financial Leadership Program at Sempra. SDSU Accounting Alumni. Loves to surf, sing, and play guitar!

Erin Tsukashima--Sempra LNG. Financial Leadership program. Financial Planning and Analysis. SDSU MSA Alumni. Likes hiking and craft breweries.

Aiden Lardizabal-- SDG&E, Management & Accounting Rotational program. Audit services, SDSU Accounting Alumni. Likes dance, music, and travel!

Sara Langill--Financial Leadership Program Manager, Internal Audit Manager.

Presentation:

Job Hunt Starts Now!

- When you get the position, it wasn't that you were lucky for it. It was because you prepared for the opportunity!
- Luck is created when you put the work in to find and prep for the opportunities.

Utilize your resources

- Attend information sessions
- Find a company you want to work for!
- Do your homework!
- Network
 - You'll find the business world is small, and you will run into people you know all over!
- SDSU Aztec Mentor Program

Preparing at Home

- Prepare a resume and cover letter
- Research the company
- Be prepared for behavioral questions:
 - What are your strengths? Weaknesses?

- What makes you the best candidate?
- Be proactive in participating in a student organization.
 - Apply for leadership positions!
- Thank ahead of questions you may be asked
 - “So...why do you want to work for us?”
 - Be prepared with these answers, know your strengths!
 - Keep your answers relevant and on topic
- Check and practice with the Big Interview on Aztec Career Portal

Interacting with Professionals

- Communicate
 - Both before and after the interview
- Find a balance
 - Conversational and professional!
 - Find out what you can beforehand to see if there’s any topics you can discuss
- Be punctual!
 - Be early! It’s your first impression, after all

Virtual Tips

- Dress: business casual, neat appearance
- Environment: noise, lighting, background are not distracting
- Posture: Looking, sitting, angle
 - Try not to fidget
 - Look at the camera
- Prep: resumes, internet, responses

Tips for Success

- Curiosity
 - Ask questions and challenge yourself
 - Make sure you always have things to ask at the end of your interview!
- Work Ethic/Initiative
 - People don’t like it when they have to check up on you during your work
 - Try to see if there is more to help with when you finish your work
- Technical Knowledge
 - No one expects you to come in a master of the skills
 - Develop it over time, express your curiosity
- Flexibility
 - Embrace change, be open to new experiences
 - Develop the soft skills that may not necessarily be related to the job!
- Network
 - Stay true to yourself, and let your personality stand out to others
 - Ask yourself...how many people can you meet at an event?

Sempre

- Our vision: Deliver energy with purpose

- Our mission: Become North America's premier energy infrastructure company
- Our values
 - Do the right thing
 - Champion people
 - Shape the future

Sempra Company Structure

- Sempra Utilities
 - SDGE
 - SoCalGas
 - Oncor
- Sempra North American Infrastructure
 - Sempra LNG
 - IEnova

Making Headlines:

- Top Utility for Diversity and Inclusion
- Reaching FID investment for LNG export facility in Mexico
- Wildfire Safety and Resiliency
- Great earnings in second quarter 2021

Sempra and SDG&E Programs

- Internship Program
 - Current students, either those graduating Winter 2022 or Spring 2023
- Rotation Program
 - One at Sempra and SDG&E
 - 3 year rotation, where you can test out multiple different groups at the company
 - Many people here are directly from the internship program

Internship Opportunities

- Each group has 1-3 interns working with it
- A great way to see how a large, multi-national company works
- Help yourself figure out what you are looking for in the company.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Interns work in various roles at Sempra and SDG&E



- Financial Accounting
- Elect Engineering & Construction Planning
- Asset Mgmt. & Project Accounting
- Risk Management
- LNG Business & Financial Modeling
- Pensions
- Supply Management
- LNG Project Accounting
- Financial Reporting
- Corporate Compliance
- Accounting Systems & Controls
- Risk & Structuring
- Corporate Accounting
- Audit Services

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INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



"Buddy" pairing - Match with a rotation employee to help interns navigate company culture

Networking meeting series - Meet and learn from leaders and rotation employees from around the company

End-of-internship presentations - Opportunity to share achievements and gain visibility with managers

Joint Associate Group membership - Inclusion in social, professional development, and volunteering events for early-career employees

Events

- Lunch & learns
- Site Tours
- Padres Game
- Hiking
- Volunteering
 - Kitchens for Good
 - Environmental Cleanup
- ... and more!

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Rotation Programs

- Financial Leadership Program (FLP) Through Sempra
- Management Accounting/Finance Rotation Program (PARP) through SDG&E
 - Similar, just different names/technicalities
 - Opportunities in Sempra Corporate Center, SDG&E, and Sempra LNG
 - 3 rotations and graduation into a permanent position

30 available rotations, including:



... and many more!

- Rotation Program Benefits
 - Challenge
 - Complex, in-depth industry work
 - Creating real impact in your rotation
 - Career Development
 - Formal Mentoring, CPA/CFA/MBA financial support
 - Opportunity
 - Network with management and company executives
 - Explore your career interests outside of Accounting

Questions:

Will I be able to gain experience for CPA license working on the rotation program? Also, is there support for employees who want to pursue MBA after the program?

- The company encourages that! Our staff is currently preparing for their exams. Sempra definitely supports you for all your costs, for any kind of professional development examples, such as the CPA, CFA, etc. It is highly encouraged
- For MBA/Master's, there are many professionals who have been able to do theirs concurrently with their rotation programs

Their strategy is to go into renewable energy. Most of their revenue comes from natural gas right now. Is the company trying to utilize its position as a leader in natural energy?

- Yes, I'd say so! A lot of our portfolio is in liquid natural gas. Sempra is focused on discovering: How do we use our portfolio in natural gas to transition to alternative energy? How can we use it together to reach our goals without compromising on reliability?
- We have a sustainability strategy that was released last year and that we are still working on now.

Rotational program: Fin acctg/fin reporting. What is the difference?

- Financial accounting: The consolidation at the parent level of information. Classic accounting...debits, credits, closing the books. Send the information to Fin. Reporting.
- Financial reporting: Taking information from different places and consolidating it into reports
 - There is overtime in the position, you get paid for that over time. Ou'll work on the quarterly/annual reports. There will be times you have more work, everyone is working together to get things finished by the deadlines. It isn't unmanageable!
 - During the busy times, she worked about 45-55 hours per week.

- Allana: Interned with KPMG before Sempra. Felt like Sempra was unique in that it helped her figure out what she wanted and felt a better connection to it.

Who are your main competitors? Who do you think your competitors will be in the future?

- Other liquified natural gas companies. All the companies around the whole industry are looking to work toward sustainability.
- I don't see our competitors changing too much in the future (ie Edison Electric). We are all working towards sustainability. They try to hone in on areas, such as getting the market in Asia, to help us stand apart.
- Energy is a regulated monopoly. There isn't direct competition, for example. SDG&E is the only energy provider.
- Working toward becoming an energy infrastructure company, more about delivering the power to you rather than figuring out how to get the energy in the first place.
- Sustainability reports are linked online!
<https://www.sempra.com/sustainability/sustainability-report>

What Software Sempra use for accounting Like QuickBooks, Yardi? Please? Thank you

- We use SAP, it is a valuable skill to learn!
- Microsoft dynamics, an ERP system within the Microsoft Ecosystem that integrates well with our overall system
- Tableau
- You will learn to use our systems along the way!