

ACCOUNTING

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Undergraduate Program

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Hillary Nolan



MAY 2013 GRADUATE, MAY 2014 MASTER'S CANDIDATE

Accounting

ConocoPhillips

Anadarko/Panhandle and the Barnett Shale Revenue and Production Intern

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as an intern.

I work primarily with the Anadarko/Panhandle Basin revenue group which accounts for the oil and gas we sell from that area. Some of my responsibilities are to book revenue, pay owners, and pay taxes for the oil and gas we produce from one of the plants. I also work on prior period adjustments to account for tax exemptions we received from the state of Texas for gas wells that are low producing in the Barnett Shale Basin. I enjoy getting hands on experience in accounting. I am getting the opportunity to experience first-hand the culture of the company, building relationships with other interns and employees at the company.

What did your internship teach you about this career field?

My internship has taught me that each accounting job I will have throughout my career may be completely different from one another. There are many opportunities in this career field, which allows me to experience different accounting jobs and roles. Accounting is not as black and white as many people may think. Understanding some accounting topics taught in class can be difficult if I cannot see how I will apply it in the work force. Therefore, completing this internship will help me apply what I learn in my classes to something in the work force that I have seen or experienced.

What impacted your selection of this major?

Math was always my favorite and strongest subject growing up. In high school I took an accounting class as an elective just to try it out. I loved the class because in a sense it is organizing money and I like organization. I also liked that it was similar to a puzzle. I use the basic knowledge of accounting the most. Just knowing debits, credits, different accounts, and what they do is essential for my job.

What classes best prepared you for the job?

The first financial accounting class really prepared me for my job. I have to know and understand the general background of accounting inside and out, such as the revenue process, income statements, and balance sheets. This allows me to apply my knowledge to whatever project or journal entries I'm working on. Advanced spreadsheets class also prepared me for the job. I have used Excel in every project that I've worked on this summer. So being comfortable with advanced formulas, pivot tables, and other Excel features has been very beneficial to my job.

What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?

Career Services definitely was the first step in facilitating my career development. I started using their resources and going to their programs first semester of my freshman year. This enabled me to start thinking about what I had to do in order to set myself up to find a job that I wanted by the time I graduate. Interning with multiple companies in both the private and public sector helped me figure out what I am looking for in a job and in a company. I also gained valuable accounting experience that I can use in my job when I graduate and have made great connections across the accounting profession.

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that are a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

I was the Treasurer and the Service Director of my service sorority. Being an officer of an organization that hosts many events taught me about organization, communication, and public speaking. I was a Resident Assistant during this time too, which taught me about conflict management and how to build meaningful relationships. Being active in many different organizations all at once and focusing on classes taught me so much about time management and working in teams in order to rely on each other and achieve common goals.

Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?

Find at least one organization that you are passionate about and get involved with it not only as a member but also as an officer so that you can develop leadership skills which are valued greatly in the work force. When interviewing for internships or full-time jobs, companies are looking for people who have experience working in teams, leading, and who have shown success in their classes. Stay focused on your classes in order to keep your GPA up, and don't forget to have fun!

WHY ACCOUNTING?

The accounting profession is an integral part of a dynamic business environment and is experiencing rapid change as a result of technology and a global economy. As a student in the School of Accounting in the Spears School of Business at OSU, your coursework will emphasize technological, cognitive and communication skills and will encourage you to recognize the importance of professional ethics, personal responsibility and the continuing development of leadership skills.

To earn a bachelor's degree in accounting, you will complete 120 hours of undergraduate course work. If you desire to become a Certified Public Accountant, you should arrange to enter the Professional Program in Accounting (PPA) or the accounting master's degree program at the end of your studies. In addition, double majors and minors are common for accounting students. Particularly popular double majors at OSU include: accounting/ agricultural economics, accounting/finance and accounting/management information systems.

Internships

Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, hireosugrads.com.

Student organizations

Accounting students can become part of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for accounting students and professionals. The OSU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is recognized as a Superior Chapter by the national organization of Beta Alpha Psi.

Study abroad/travel programs

The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education.

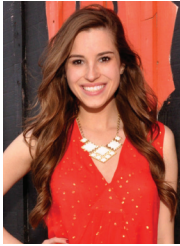
Scholarships

Each year, the Spears School grants more than 275 individual awards for a total of nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. These numbers continue to grow as donors recognize the value of providing assistance to college students.

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Keelie McMurrey



MAY 2013 GRADUATE, MAY 2014 MASTER'S CANDIDATE

Accounting
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Assurance Associate

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as a new hire.

I am currently working towards a Master of Science in Accounting at OSU. After completion of my internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers, I accepted a full-time position as an Assurance Associate for Fall 2014. My responsibilities as a new hire with PwC will be similar to my role as an intern. During my internship, I gained experience auditing a variety of areas on the balance sheet such as cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. I am excited for my career as a public accountant because I will be able to help perform audits for many different companies in a variety of industries. There will be countless opportunities to expand my professional network, and the knowledge that I'll gain in public accounting will help to achieve my future aspirations as an accountant.

When you were choosing a major, what factored into your selection?

I have chosen accounting as my major because I want a profession that challenges me to learn and grow as a professional for the rest of my career. I also like the fact that this major has many different types of job opportunities. For instance, one can become an auditor, tax accountant, forensic accountant, cost accountant, and so on. This was important to me because I have such a wide array of interests and could see a career for myself in each of those areas. Additionally, I have learned valuable time management and problem solving skills that will benefit me in my vocation as a public accountant.

What classes best prepared you for the job?

The class that best resembled my auditing internship and prepared me for my career was Auditing and Assurance Services. Audit is a language of its own, and it is important to have this fundamental knowledge before going in to the first day on the job. Accounting Information Systems is another course that prepared me because it helped me to understand some of the key processes used when conducting an audit.

What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?

Business Career Services played a significant role in my success as an accounting student. With the help of career services, I gained valuable resume advice, interviewing skills, and the ability to network with professionals in career fairs and other business programs. I learned how to make myself a marketable candidate and obtained three internships before deciding my future was in public accounting. Each of my internships proved to be valuable experiences because I was able to apply the knowledge from my accounting classes into a real-life setting. This allowed me to reflect on my future career as an accountant and make decisions regarding the industry I'd like to work in professionally.

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that were a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

My most meaningful college experiences were when I studied abroad in France and London. My semester in France opened my eyes to a world that was much unknown to me. The experience enhanced my understanding of other cultures and taught me more about myself than I could have ever imagined. During my summer in London, I was exposed to a more global perspective of business and accounting. I had the opportunity to network with many professionals and learn about their day to day activities conducting business overseas. Business is increasingly becoming more global, and the knowledge I took away from this experience will greatly benefit me in my career.

Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?

My advice for students is that it is never too early to start networking and looking for internships. Utilize career services resources to help prepare for job interviews and career fairs. Be sure to take advantage of all the opportunities to get involved on campus with organizations and clubs. College is a place where you can create your own personal brand, so be active in the community and have fun building an image for yourself on campus!

CAREER SERVICES

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Oklahoma State University
103 Business Building
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

phone 405.744.2772 fax 405.744.5180
web spears.okstate.edu/careerservices



CAREER
SERVICES



Accounting career areas

Auditing

- A certified public accountant (CPA) examines an organization's financial statements and issues an opinion as to the fairness of the statements. Many CPAs work for themselves and spend most of their time consulting with small businesses.

Cost management

- These accountants provide information that helps managers control operations and make decisions. They are key players on management teams.

Tax accounting

- Tax accounting is a rapidly growing area of employment in the governmental sector as systems become more sophisticated.

Accounting systems

- The accounting department is the largest information system in most organizations. With the move toward client/server computing, there is an enormous increase in the demand for graduates with a strong background in both accounting and management information systems.

Government accounting

- All levels of government employ large numbers of accountants. Accounting provides an excellent opportunity to combine a rewarding career with public service.

Forensic accounting

- Forensics is a rapidly growing area and involves performing "financial detective" work to support legal cases.

Career resources for accounting majors

OSU Career Services hireosugrads.com

I Hire Accountants ihireaccounting.com

Accounting Jobs accounting.jobs.net

Accounting Net accountingnet.com

Careers in Business
careers-in-business.com

Intern Match internmatch.com

Indeed.com indeed.com

American Accounting Association
aaahq.org

CPA Journal cpa.journal.com

American Institute of CPAs aicpa.org

Institute of Internal Auditors theiia.org

National Association of Tax Practitioners
natptax.com