

Adam Espinosa, CPA

Age: 26

Job Title: Senior Assurance Associate

Company Name: RSM McGladrey and McGladrey & Pullen

College/Degree or Certification: Creighton University; Bachelors of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) with major in accounting; CPA certified



What does your company do? We provide accounting, tax and consulting services with an emphasis on midsized businesses (\$5 million to \$500 million in revenues).

What attracted you to the company? Working with midsized companies and reputation for having a good work/life balance.

Please list some of your duties: I supervise less experienced staff on engagements and look at companies' records to validate their financial statements appear correct.

What are the best/most interesting things about your job? I get to travel to a variety of interesting places for work (Kansas City, Sioux City, and Grand Island). I also get to meet numerous business leaders in a variety of industries, especially manufacturing as this is my focus area.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job? Being able to help midsized businesses grow by assisting them with a variety of services that RSM McGladrey and McGladrey & Pullen offer.

How did you decide on this career path? In high school I took accounting classes, which I liked, and decided that I wanted to be a CPA.

What kind of school, classes, and training most prepared you with the necessary skills?

In high school I took any business classes that were offered. I went to a four-year university and took a variety of business classes with an emphasis in accounting. In Nebraska you have to achieve 150 credit hours to become a CPA, which is the case in most states, so I had to take additional summer classes to graduate in four years. Most universities are now offering programs where you have your masters in accounting and graduate in five years to get 150 hours.

Do you make a good living? I live at a comfortable level. I have a higher income than most of my friends that I graduated high school with. I am able to purchase a new vehicle, pay off my school loans early and make payments on a house.

What kind of salary and benefits can a new employee at your company expect? Salary varies with locations and size of firm. Most entry-level accountants on the CPA track make on average about \$45,000 at large firms. Benefits include health and dental insurance and retirement plans.

What kind of technology do you use and interact with? The majority of the technology I use is computers and various business and accounting software.

What advice would you give to students who are undecided on a career choice? Find something you like to do and make a career out of it.

Finally, what do you think makes you a good Dream Team candidate?

I am involved in the manufacturing industry but from a different perspective in that my company, RSM McGladrey and McGladrey & Pullen, offers specialized services to enable manufacturing companies to grow. We provide services to over 7,000 manufacturers and distributors nationwide, making this the largest industry we serve.