

John Welp

Age: 24

Job Title: Audit Associate

Company Name: RSM McGladrey

College: Creighton and University of Iowa

Degree or Certification: BSBA and Masters of Accountancy



What does your company do?

RSM McGladrey is a public accounting firm. They provide a wide variety of accounting, tax and consulting services to an array of manufacturing organizations.

What attracted you to the company?

What attracted me to RSM was the ability to gain experience quickly and to work with a wide variety of companies whose products can vary greatly and whose organizational structures can be just as different.

Please list some of your duties:

My duties entail auditing the various components of a company's financial statements, doing inventory observations (to verify the accuracy of the company's recordkeeping system), and being available to assist clients needs as they arise on various accounting related matters.

What are the best/most interesting things about your job?

One of the most interesting parts of public accounting is that you can work with 10-20 different companies in a given year. This allows you to gain experience quickly from a variety of different sources. One of the best parts of my job is the people and the relationships that I have developed while working with there. Not only does the company have one of the best office atmospheres, but working with a national firm allows you to build relationships around the country.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is the organizations and people that I work with everyday.

How did you decide on this career path?

My parents suggested I take an accounting class and when I took my first class, I was hooked and never looked back

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

School and internships are very important for being able to obtain the necessary skills, but nothing will train you more than working in a growing office where people are willing to not only mentor you, but consider you a friend and ensure that you are trained.

Do you make a good living?

(A specific \$ amount is not necessary, but we'd like to know how you feel about your standard of living, i.e., the things you can afford, such as a new home or vehicle, savings, investments, entertainment, etc.)

Accounting has not only one of the highest salaries out of college, but the placement percentage is also near the top of any business degree with it being placed year after year as one of the best jobs in the US.

What kind of salary and benefits can a new employee at your company expect?

For salary see above. For benefits you will receive retirement and all the standard health benefits along with many other benefits that are unique to the accounting industry (an example being a generous travel incentive plan)

What kind of technology do you use and interact with?

RSM McGladrey gives each employee its own laptop (benefit) and employees use different audit and standard computer applications on the laptop to do their everyday work.

What advice would you give to students who are undecided on a career choice?

I would recommend that students get as much experience in a field that interests them as possible. There are many different opportunities to gain experience in manufacturing, from the management function, accounting function and the production function.

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

I think that my enthusiasm towards the manufacturing industry and the insight I can provide in an area most people wouldn't associate with manufacturing (accounting) can help add to the Dream Team.