

Missouri Career Mentor video script



Denise Nelson, CPA

Accountant
Accounting Plus, Inc.

My name is Denise Nelson. I have a bachelor's degree in accounting, and I am a partner in an accounting firm. My day-to-day duties include bookkeeping, payroll preparation, individual and business income tax preparation, and accounting software training and consulting.

Characteristics

The important characteristics employers are looking for in an accountant are honesty, accuracy, attention to detail, strong work ethic, ability to multi-task, and the ability to work well under pressure.

Joys & Challenges

The things I enjoy most about being an accountant are working with the clients – both the business clients and the individual clients. The biggest challenges are keeping up with the ever-changing tax laws and accounting software and the different kinds of software that we use in this industry.

A good day at the office would include helping someone solve a big financial problem. There's a lot of day-to-day routines in this job, but a lot of it is dealing with people and helping people, and I really enjoy that about this career.

Early Interest

Growing up, my mom was the bookkeeper for my dad's business, so I watched mom working on the books and records for that business and developed an interest in it. In high school, I decided to take accounting and computers and things that related to business, I guess because I grew up with it.

Influences

I found that the accounting degree was the first step in a long-term learning process in this field. My first few jobs out of college were great learning experiences – one stands out. I worked for a long period of time at a technology company and my boss there was so tough, and I really didn't like him to start with. And I found that I learned so much from him – about the business itself, about dealing with employees, dealing with difficult customers. I have enjoyed that learning process and looking back I realized that I thought I knew it all when I got out of college, and there was a lot more learning to go.

In Retrospect

If I had it to do all over again, looking back at my high school years, I would have spent a little more time on school work and a little less time worrying about the boys. A good GPA and a good work ethic will carry you a long way through college and into your accounting career.

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Advice

If I had to give advice the advice I would give were the words my dad would say to me, 'Get your work done, then play.' If you are an eager learner and a hard worker, it will carry you a long way through school and your career beyond.