



## Shelby Culp

MAcc Alumna

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Shelby Culp was not your typical MAcc student. Nearly 80% of students who enter the Master of Accountancy program at Gonzaga come in with an undergraduate degree in accounting, and many already have internship experience in public accounting. However, as an applicant, Shelby demonstrated many of the attributes that are essential to being a successful student and accountant: a serious commitment to academic success, strong communication skills, and a true enthusiasm for the accounting profession.

Shelby received her undergraduate degree from Gonzaga in music with a focus on vocal performance and originally intended to pursue a career as an opera singer. Upon graduation, she decided to pursue her MAcc because of an undergraduate accounting class that she had taken as part of her business minor.

[Learn more about Shelby's experience, in her own words...](#)

### What attracted you to the accounting profession?

Two of the most important things to me in a career are that I have the opportunity to help people and that I am always challenged and continuing to learn. I certainly found both in the accounting profession. I love that the rules in accounting are constantly changing, as it's a challenge to keep up with and fascinating to watch the trends in how accounting standards and tax laws develop.

The body of knowledge involved in accounting is so vast and complex, I'm sure I could spend a lifetime studying it and never reach the end. So many people are intimidated by various parts of the accounting process, whether it be filing a tax return or simply keeping their books in order

so their business functions legally and efficiently. Often people with good ideas, strong management skills, and an innate business sense are prevented from entering the marketplace simply because of the complexity of the accounting side of business.

### What did you enjoy most about your classes in the MAcc program?

My favorite thing about my MAcc classes were my professors. It never failed to amaze me how knowledgeable they were, how much they love their students and teaching, and how invested they are in their students' lives and futures. They all seem like they love what they do so it's easy to get invested and really learn what they're teaching.

### What career resources did Gonzaga provide to help you find employment?

The career resources I used most were the professors and staff in the Graduate School of Business. When I began the program, I had no idea how important networking was to beginning a career in public accounting; thank goodness my advisor and professors that first semester clued me in! Once they knew my interests, they put me in touch with the people in the public accounting world that I needed to know, both to help me get to know which firms may be a good fit and to make sure I got the exposure I needed to be familiar to recruiters when hiring season came along. Additionally, I found the directors of both the MAcc and MBA programs invaluable, as they sent along job opportunities via email, often from employers who are specifically interested in Gonzaga students. The staff at the Graduate School helped me tear apart and rebuild my resume, and my advisor helped me discuss all the career paths available to MAcc grads.

For more information about the Master of Accountancy program, please contact:

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