



To give you an idea of what to expect during your first year of employment at Calibre CPA Group, here's what a new staff auditor had to say:

june

In my first week of employment with Calibre CPA Group, I spent most of my time in training seminars – I learned about the computer applications the firm uses, their marketing and industry niches, as well as the firm's expectations of me. The last part of the week was a mock audit where I learned how to audit cash, fixed assets, prepaid expenses, accounts payable, and operating expenses. After this week, I started to feel confident that I could handle my first week at an actual client.

At the end of my first week at the firm, Calibre CPA Group hosted a social hour to introduce me and the other new staff to the rest of the firm. I was surprised to see so many staff, seniors, managers, and even partners at the event. That was awesome! It was a great way to get to know everyone I'd met earlier in the week.

There were times when I felt like I learned nothing in college and I was back at square one, but I'll never forget how encouraging everyone was during my first few weeks.

july

I worked on several audits for a few 401(k) engagements where I was able to prepare workpapers, help draft financial statements, and prepare tax returns. It was challenging, but I felt I was really learning a lot. I also spent two weeks this month performing a fraud audit investigation. While not a traditional audit, it allowed me to work one-on-one with two partners. We designed the testing procedures to be used for the fraud investigation and I think my confidence started to build. The partners were so supportive!

august

All of the June 30 audits I was working on were well under way by August. After two months of "on the job training," I felt I was an asset to the team. We were able to complete all of our June 30 audits by the clients' deadlines.

I also started to study for two parts of the CPA exam – it was a little difficult working and studying at the same time, but I never had a problem getting to my CPA review course on time. The firm was very supportive which helped me get through the studying process. I sat for the first two parts ... it was nerve-racking, but at least it was over!

Calibre CPA Group also had their annual firmwide meeting and picnic this month, which gave me the opportunity to meet even more of my fellow employees.

september

I started to feel comfortable with all the aspects of my job and was really enjoying the social atmosphere of the firm. At least once a month there was a social hour or some such event after work. I felt like I was forming some lasting friendships with other employees. My mentor and I created a list of goals and how I can accomplish them. I felt that Calibre CPA Group was supportive of me and my needs.

october

I couldn't believe it, but in October, the seniors, managers, and partners were already planning jobs for Busy Season! I was interested to see what types of clients I would be assigned to and what the work load would be like. I'm still learning a lot and trying to see how the entire audit process comes together. And while I felt comfortable auditing cash, A/P, prepaid expenses, fixed assets, expenses, and testing internal controls surrounding cash disbursements, I'm looking forward to potentially auditing revenue and receivables. Watch out Busy Season ... here I come!

november

Good news finally arrived in November ...I had passed the first two parts of the CPA exam! So I was ready to start prepping for the last two sections. Also, the week of Thanksgiving, we had "CORE ONE" training, a three day class taught by various professionals at the firm (partners, managers, and seniors) specifically for first year staff. The class helped me to gain a better grasp of the overall picture of how the audit is planned and finally comes to the end product ... the opinion on the financial statements. I was glad the firm valued my skills so much that they invested all of that training time for me.

december

December was a month of interim work – preparing for the large engagements I would be working on during Busy Season. The main tasks I focused on this month included testing of new pensioners, payroll transactions, and employer contributions.

In all, December was a relaxing time topped off with the firm's annual Holiday Party. It was a semi-formal sit-down dinner and dance (I didn't bring a date, arrgh!!) at a really posh place.

january – march

The first three months flew by and things were BUSY! I went back to clients I'd been at in December and performed year end fieldwork. I was also able to work on a new client of the firm. This was challenging and allowed me to really use the knowledge I had gained over the last six months. I started to grasp the concept of overall materiality. And while I had to work a few Saturdays, I have to confess, it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. The firm brought in lunch for everyone and we would all get together to eat and chat. It was great to see everyone in the office and catch-up with my "cube neighbors." All in all...Busy Season wasn't as bad as I thought it would be and I still had time to learn a lot more.

april

Busy Season ended in April and I had survived! I think the thing I learned was the benefit of always having a different supervisor on each engagement – each supervisor has different strengths. That helped me to grow in different ways.

Calibre CPA Group held it's annual "After Busy Season" party after the 15th. It was so fun to finally kick back and relax and have everyone back together again!

may

Next month will be my one year anniversary at Calibre CPA Group and I can't believe how much I learned over the year. I feel I've grown as a professional, gained substantial technical knowledge, and created great relationships with my coworkers and the firm's clientele. After having exposure to different types of engagements, I really feel like I'm part of the Calibre CPA Group team. The firm has not only given me the opportunity to grow as an accountant, but also as an individual. I enjoy the people I work with, the work I do, and my clients. Who could ask for more?

