



MARK SOTO

I found what I was looking for at CPA and more.

My career at the Comptroller's office began as a summer intern. I was looking for a place where I could apply my knowledge gained through college and past experiences. I was a senior in college seeking real world cyber security analyst experience and was able to gather that and more here at CPA. From the start, I was put on projects and tasks that would not only help the team but help the entire organization. Many of these tasks I was unfamiliar with, but my team was very eager to help teach me as I took on this new role. I assisted in creating compliance scans and reviewed the results to see if teams complied. The goal was to have a benchmark for teams to follow and model their new servers against in the future.

I had a very rewarding experience and felt part of a team.

Having started the internship during a worldwide pandemic raised many questions on how I would be able to work with my team or how I would gain hands-on experience. The Comptroller's office made the whole experience seamless. I communicated with team members every day in some form despite working remotely. I was brought into conversations with other cyber security analysts and saw the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of an analyst, and how to accomplish them. The team I worked with made me feel as if I had been working side

by side with them for years. I was part of the team instantly.

The positive learning environment was a big plus for me.

I gained more valuable and real-life experience than I ever thought possible. My team was

there every step of the way, encouraging me and the work I was doing. Not only did my team notice the work put forth over the duration of the summer-long internship but so did CPA. I was fortunate enough to receive a full-time employment opportunity, which I gladly accepted. I continued my role as a cyber security analyst on the Vulnerability Identification and Remediation team, where I am doing compliance-related work, but also taking new responsibilities such as assisting people within the organization in identifying and remediating vulnerabilities found in their platforms.

Working at CPA has been such a great experience so far. Everyone is helpful, the culture is great and the talent here is amazing. I learn so much everyday from everyone and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. I am grateful I found the internship opportunity at CPA.



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