

# INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Mara McCutcheon

**Graduation Semester & Year:** Spring 2020

**Semester & Year of Internship:** Spring 2020

**Major:** Accounting

**Minor:** Healthcare Management

**Hobbies:**

**Campus Activities:** Accounting & Business Club

**Future Plans/Career Goals:** Work at BDO full time

**Hometown:** White, PA



- **Internship (company/your title):**

BDO, LLP – Tax Intern

- **How did you find your internship?**

I learned about this opportunity through Sharon Turchick, an accounting professor here at UPG.

- **What were your duties?**

In general, I prepared tax returns, extensions, and estimates. For tax returns, I would also prepare workpapers, self-review the returns, and meet with those to review the return. For extensions, I would prepare them and calculate the appropriate amount to be paid with extension. For estimates, I would calculate a proper estimate of tax due for the next year and create corresponding vouchers. Other small tasks included addressing tax notices, client correspondence, and various research opportunities.

- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**

I was required to work 25 hours a week.

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**

I really enjoyed my internship. I think my favorite part was getting to work with new people and make new relationships. The atmosphere is great there.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**

The most difficult aspect of my internship was learning all the new software the company uses. The beginning of my internship had a lot of training in order to make sure we could use the software effectively.

- **How did your experience at UPG and the Accounting Department prepare you for your internship?**

My experience at UPG has taught me a lot whether from classes or personal conversations with faculty. UPG has provided the foundation for my career and future.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

My internship was a steppingstone into my career. Due to my performance at BDO they offered me a fulltime position once I graduate.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

An internship is a great way to expand your network and make yourself stand out to future employers. I suggest doing at least two different internships so you can work in different positions and see what you enjoy.

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