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What was your college major?

I earned my A.A. from JCCC, my B.A. from Avila, and my M.B.A. from the University of Kansas. I sat for the Certified Management Accountant certification and was certified in 1998.

Did this major lead you to your current career?

I worked as a junior accountant at a local firm in the mid 1970's (that is no longer in existence) doing their payroll, bank reconciliations, and assisting the senior accountant with account research. In late 1979, I received a call from the Business Division Dean, Jim Vomhof, here at JCCC asking me to consider teaching a course for him beginning Spring semester, 1980. I spent ten years as an adjunct instructor before a full-time position in the Accounting Program opened and I could apply. I began my full-time teaching career in January, 1990. I have served the Accounting Department here at JCCC as the Adjunct Faculty Liaison, the Facilitator for the program, and now as the chair position.

What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?

Dedication, consistently completing homework to keep up, detailed, committed, and willing to ask questions when they don't understand something or need to clarify.

Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.

As Department Chair, I meet with many potential students of accounting and I encourage their interest in the field by pointing out the many opportunities for employment available with a degree in this field. There is a wide range of possibilities for accounting within virtually all career fields. Accounting students may become marketing majors, but seldom do marketing students become accounting majors.

What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?

The student will learn to be detailed, thorough, and able to see the big picture of a company, not just a part of it.

For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?

Any accounts receivable, accounts payable, tax preparation, payroll preparation or assisting the accountant in these positions within a company would give a student an opportunity to gain an understanding about the field and help them decide whether they have true interest in and aptitude for accounting work.

If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?

A student could seek a treasurer's position with a student club or organization, or just volunteer at a local church or non-profit organization. This would be a good way to gain the experience related to the accounting field.

Is there a selection process for entering this program?

No.