



## Nicole Sallee

MSTax Alumna

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After completing her undergraduate degree in Biology, Nicole Sallee knew she wanted a profession that provided more human interaction than researching in a lab. She also wanted to begin her career earlier than medical school would allow. Nicole witnessed how her parents who work as CPAs provided her family with financial stability even during difficult times like the economic crisis in 2008. Nicole knew that a career in accounting would provide financial stability, vast potential for growth, intellectual stimulation, and the opportunity to serve clients while working with a team. For these reasons, Nicole chose a career in accounting and is currently a Staff Tax Accountant at Moss Adams in Spokane.

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

### What attracted you to the accounting profession?

First and foremost, the people. I am surrounded by some of the brightest, hardest-working individuals I've ever met. I thrive when I am a contributing member of a team, and I have found a very positive team-oriented environment in public accounting. I also love the intellectual challenge of the accounting profession. Accounting/tax rules are constantly changing, so there is always more to learn.

### Why did you choose Gonzaga? If you were to do it all over again, would you choose Gonzaga now?

I originally chose Gonzaga because of its stellar reputation within the accounting community. If I were to do it all over again, I would choose Gonzaga because of its top-notch faculty. They are amazing people academically, professionally, and personally. I experienced firsthand how they will go above and beyond to help students achieve their goals. I have taken classes at four colleges throughout my academic career, and Gonzaga's faculty truly stand out to me as the best of the best.

### What did you appreciate most about your MSTax classes?

I most appreciated the expertise of the professors and their desire to continuously improve the curriculum. The small class sizes made it easy to get extra help if needed. I not only learned about tax law and theory, but also about how to practically apply it in a work environment. I am very grateful to have completed such a practical program that prepared me for success in my career.

### What career resources did Gonzaga provide?

Gonzaga connected me with the firms I was interested in. Gonzaga's Advisors make sure their students stay on top of the recruiting process, which can be overwhelming to navigate on your own. Professors are very understanding about the rigorous fall recruiting schedule and firms think very highly of Gonzaga's accounting program, shown in their willingness to compete for Gonzaga graduate students.

### What options opened up for you because of your Master's degree?

I was able to land an internship with a Big 4 accounting firm and two full-time job offers as a result of my MSTax degree from GU. More and more firms are requiring recruits to have a Master's degree in the tax profession. I expect it won't be long before it's considered the standard in the field. In my experience, having a Master's degree is held in high regard by employers and business connections. A Master's degree demonstrates a different level of academic perseverance. It takes grit to complete a Master's degree!

### What would you say to someone concerned about the MSTax tuition?

Investing in yourself and in your future success is the best possible investment you can make, especially at the start of your career. The MSTax program skyrocketed me into a position that will set me up for the rest of my life. The knowledge and connections I gained through the MSTax program will pay dividends for my entire career.

For more information about the Master of Science in Taxation program, please contact:

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