JULIAN MERCER

AUDITOR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Auditor and licensed CPA with 5+ years in external audits of mid-market public and private companies. Plans and leads fieldwork, tests internal controls, and drafts clear findings for partners and audit committees. Known for finishing engagements on budget and turning control gaps into practical recommendations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Auditor Jul 2024 - Present
Grant Thornton, Chicago, IL

- Lead fieldwork for four manufacturing and distribution clients with revenue between $80M and $400M, supervising two associates and an intern on each engagement.
- Finished three year-end audits within 4% of budgeted hours by building the testing calendar and prepared-by-client list in the first week of planning.
- Identified a revenue cut-off error of $1.2M during sales testing, which the client corrected before the financial statements were issued.
- Tested IT general controls and SOX 404 key controls for one public client and documented two deficiencies that management remediated within the quarter.
- Reviewed associate workpapers and cleared roughly 85% of review notes before manager review, shortening the final sign-off cycle.
- Presented control findings to a client audit committee and agreed an action plan with owners and dates for each item.

Audit Associate Sep 2021 - Jun 2024

- Performed substantive testing over inventory, fixed assets, and accounts payable, including observing physical counts at six warehouse locations.
- Prepared lead schedules and tick-and-tie support for financial statement disclosures on a 20-entity consolidated group.
- Built reusable sampling and recalculation templates in Excel that cut routine testing time by about 15% across the team.
- Confirmed receivables and cash balances with third parties and followed up on exceptions until each reconciled.

Audit Intern Jan 2021 - Apr 2021
Crowe LLP, Chicago, IL

- Supported busy-season testing on two nonprofit audits by vouching expense samples and compiling PBC request lists.
- Documented walkthroughs of payroll and procurement cycles that senior staff reused as the basis for control testing.
- Reconciled bank statements to the general ledger for a 12-account client and flagged three timing differences for the manager.

CORE SKILLS

GAAS and PCAOB standards | SOX 404 testing | Internal controls evaluation | Risk assessment | Audit sampling | Substantive testing | Workpaper documentation | Revenue recognition (ASC 606) | IDEA data analytics | CaseWare | Excel (pivot tables, lookups) | Audit committee reporting | Inventory observation

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Illinois | Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), ACFE