



# ISCPA

IOWA SOCIETY OF CPAs

## Young Iowa CPA spotlight Sarah Anderson Ankeny

February 2022

**Hometown:** Granville

**Alma Mater/Degree:** Buena Vista University, bachelor's degree in accounting and business with a concentration in human resource management

**Where do you work and what's your role?** Senior accountant at Williams & Company PC

**What can we find you doing when you're not a work?** Traveling! I love exploring new places and cultures (especially internationally)! When I'm not working or traveling, you can find me spending time at the lakes, hanging out with friends and family, or watching a movie or television series.

**What's one thing you can't make it through the day without?** Music! I always have something playing in the background while I'm doing just about anything - working, cooking, cleaning, exercising, etc. Music puts me in a good mood and helps me stay focused and motivated.

**What has been the most challenging so far during the COVID-19 pandemic?** Simply just adjusting to the many changes. During the pandemic, I got married, moved to Ankeny and began working remotely. Having supportive family, friends, coworkers (and of course technology) has allowed for a smooth transition.

**What is your proudest professional accomplishment?** Definitely passing the CPA exam! I set a personal goal to pass all the exams by the Christmas following my college graduation and was able to take and pass my final exam that November. Getting my CPA certification has allowed me to continue to grow and advance within my career.

**What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you?** My involvement with the ISCPA began as a student member and I received the Iowa CPA Education Foundation scholarship. Now, as a professional member, I serve on the Career Awareness and Membership committees. I've also attended several ISCPA events including the Emerging Leaders Conference and have participated in the Society's Month of Service. Getting involved with the ISCPA has been a great way to connect with numerous other professionals!

**What made you want to become a CPA?** I was fortunate to grow up in a small town family business and I think being able to watch that develop sparked my first passion for business and accounting. After deciding accounting would be my major, both my professors and internship experiences showed me the importance of obtaining the CPA license and the value it could have on my career.

**What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA?** Just do it! Obtaining the CPA certification adds considerable value and opens many doors professionally. As for preparing and taking the exam, find a study strategy that works for you and set your mind to it. Remember the hardest journeys are often the most rewarding!