Kristin Krawchuk discovered her interest in accounting in a roundabout way. At first, international business was her direction because of her keen interest in languages. Then, she considered majoring in math. Ultimately, it was accounting that offered her a good balance of business knowledge and math skills that she could apply in the real world.

“I was into business in high school,” explains Kristin, “so I knew that I wanted to major in this area, but I didn’t know exactly which part. The way that the accounting program is set up at the College really appealed to me. It weeds out the people who shouldn’t be there. But if you do your work and you try really hard, you can thrive. To me, that was important.”

Almost immediately, Kristin found a strong mentor in her faculty advisor. “He’s been my biggest supporter. He impressed on me how difficult it would be to get a job and how thoroughly I would have to prepare. I remember getting an email from him with a plan mapped out for the next three years. He listed the courses I should take and the internships I should pursue. After I got further into the program, I realized how crucial his advice was. At one point, I was negotiating with six or seven different companies for an internship, and that wouldn’t have been possible without his help.”

According to Kristin, a principal strength of the program is the opportunity it provides for internships that really matter. And she should know, she’s had a handful. In one case, she spent the summer in the Cayman Islands, where she was in charge of a new account. “I helped set up all the accounting systems for that company, dealing with the legal contracts and the issuing of stock. I also developed all the materials for the company’s first board meeting. Eventually, it led to a part-time job once school resumed, and later, a full-time offer.”

Kristin plans to specialize in auditing. “In that kind of work, you’re usually part of a team, and I really value the fact that our program has not only taught me numbers and systems, but it’s also made me a better communicator. I think I’ll be well prepared to succeed in this field when I graduate.”