



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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CITATION: ASSESSMENT OF FINE

To: Saper Aude, LLC., Owner
University of West Los Angeles
9800 S. La Cienga Blvd., 12th Floor
Inglewood, CA 90301

INSTITUTION CODE: 29927698
CITATION NUMBER: 2021131
CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: October 29, 2020
DUE DATE: November 28, 2020
FINE AMOUNT: \$ 2,500.00
ORDER OF ABATEMENT INCLUDED: Yes

Christina Villanueva issues this Citation: Assessment of Fine (Citation) in her official capacity as Discipline Manager of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

CITATION

A Citation is hereby issued to Saper Aude, LLC., Owner of University of West Los Angeles (Institution) located at 9800 S. La Cienga Blvd., 12th Floor, Inglewood, CA 90301, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.9; California Education Code (CEC) sections 94936 and 94932; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR) section 75020 for the violations described below.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2020, the Bureau received a complaint alleging that the Institution falsely advertised providing federal financial aid. Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that the Institution was advertising providing Federal Financial aid prior to acquiring approval to offer financial aid from the United States Department of Education.

VIOLATION

#	Below you will find the California Education Code (CEC) and/or Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR code) section(s) of law you are charged with violating.
1.	<p>Violation: 5, CCR Section 94897 (j) – Prohibited Business Practices <i>“An institution shall not do any of the following:</i> <i>(j) In any manner make an untrue or misleading change in, or untrue or misleading statement related to, a test score, grade or record of grades, attendance record, record indicating student completion, placement, employment, salaries, or financial information, including any of the following...:”</i></p>

On January 23, 2020, the Bureau received a complaint alleging that the Institution falsely advertised providing federal financial aid.

On January 30, 2020, the Bureau reviewed the Institution's school catalog and found the following statements:

- On page 17, "A student may apply for Federal Financial Aid"
- On page 18, "Most students enrolled in any UWLA degree track/seeking program will qualify for low interest loans in amounts sufficient to cover a percentage of tuition, fees, books, and related costs."
- On page 19, "UWLA participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program degree track students."
- On page 20, "The University does NOT participate in the following Federal Aid Programs:
 - Federal Perkins Loans
 - Academic Competitiveness Grant
 - National SMART Grant
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant"

Additionally, Bureau staff found that the Institution is Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Senior College, and University Commission.

On January 31, 2020, Bureau staff emailed the Institution Owner requesting a student file and received it on February 11, 2020.

On February 12, 2020, Bureau staff reviewed the student's file and found that the School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS) states that, "Students at the University of West Los Angeles are not eligible for federal student loans. This institution does not meet the U.S. Department of Education criteria that would allow its students to participate in federal student aid programs." The document was signed and initialed by the student.

On February 14, 2020, Institution staff notified the Bureau via email that the Institution received WASC accreditation in mid-2018, and that the Institution began the application process with U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for federal financial at the end of 2018.

Per Institution staff, students were notified that the Institution did not offer federal financial aid and were required to sign documents acknowledging that federal financial aid was not an option.

On May 5, 2020, Institution staff informed the Bureau via email that the Institution has been officially approved to offer federal financial aid.

On May 6, 2020, Institution staff notified the Bureau via email that federal financial aid is available for all Institution degree programs for students who properly apply, and that eligibility will be for the academic years of 19-20 and 20-21.

Therefore, it was determined that the Institution advertised financial aid in the school catalog prior to acquiring approval to offer financial aid from the United States Department of Education.

Assessment of Fine

The fine for this violation is \$2,500.00.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$2,500.00

ASSESSMENT OF A FINE

In accordance with CEC section 94936; and 5, CCR sections 75020 and 75030, the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fine in the amount of **\$2,500.00** for the violations described above. **Payment must be made, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation.**

APPEAL OF CITATION

You have the right to contest this Citation through an informal conference with the Bureau; and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this Citation, you must submit the 'Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing' form (enclosed) within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation. *If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing within 30 days from the service of the Citation, you will not be able to request one at a later time.*

Unless a written request for an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing is signed by you and delivered to the Bureau by **November 28, 2020**, you will be deemed to have waived or forfeited your right to appeal this matter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CITATION

If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing, this Citation shall become effective on **October 29, 2020**. Payment of the administrative fine shall be due by **November 28, 2020**. Your payment of the administrative fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

If a hearing is requested, you will not be required to comply with this Citation until 30 days after a final order is entered against you.

Payment of the administrative fine and/or written request for appeal must be mailed to:

Nicole Mitchell, Discipline Citation Program
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

Failure for an applicant or institution to abate the violation(s) listed above or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed may result in denial of an application for an approval or renewal to operate; disciplinary action, and/or collection action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Citation and recover the civil penalties prescribed therein or found to be due after a hearing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Citation, or desire further information, please contact Nicole Mitchell, Citation Analyst, at (916) 574-8995 or Nicole.Mitchell@dca.ca.gov.

“Original Signature on File”

“10/29/2020”

Christina Villanueva
Discipline Manager

Date

Enclosures

- Applicable Laws Violated
- Statement of Rights: Appeal Process Information Sheet
- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First- Class Mail