



MODIFIED CITATION ORDER

Citation Issued To: The Gluten Free Culinary School 2647 Ariane Drive San Diego, CA 92117 Institution Code: Unapproved	Citation Number: 24250286
	Total Fine Amount: \$12,500.00
	Order of Abatement Included: Yes

Elizabeth Elias issues this modified citation in her official capacity as Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement at the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, California Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau").

LICENSING HISTORY

1. On or about November 4, 2024, the Bureau determined that The Gluten Free Culinary School hereinafter referred to as the "Institution" is not approved by the Bureau to operate a private postsecondary institution.

DISCIPLINE HISTORY

2. The Institution has no prior discipline history.

CITATION JURISDICTION

3. This administrative citation is issued to the Institution pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94936; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 75020 et seq. for the violation(s) described below.

CITATION HISTORY

4. On or about March 19, 2025, the Bureau issued Citation No. 24250286. On or about April 17, 2025, the Bureau received an appeal with a request for an informal conference and administrative hearing. The informal conference was held on July 23, 2025. New substantive information was presented during the informal conference; therefore, the Bureau modifies the citation as follows:

**CAUSE FOR CITATION &
MODIFIED ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND/OR ORDER OF ABATEMENT**

5. The Institution is in violation of the following Bureau laws and regulations:

Violation #1:

CEC section 94886 – Approval to Operate Required

Cause for Citation: On or about November 4, 2024, the Bureau completed an investigation based on a complaint the Bureau received which alleged that the Institution is operating without Bureau approval.

A Bureau investigation substantiated allegation(s) that the Institution is operating as a private postsecondary educational institution in California without an approval to operate granted by the Bureau or valid exemption. Bureau investigators reviewed documents, statements, websites, and advertising to substantiate the allegation(s).

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 (b), the Institution is issued a fine of \$25,000.00.

Administrative Fine: Modified. The Bureau modifies the administrative fine from \$25,000.00 to \$12,500.00.

Order of Abatement: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 the Bureau issues the following order of abatement:

The Bureau orders the Institution cease to operate as a private postsecondary educational institution, unless the institution qualifies for an exemption under CEC section 94874, or until such time an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau.

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 149, the Institution shall cease unlawful advertising and shall notify the telephone company furnishing services to disconnect the telephone numbers contained in any unlawful advertising.

- The Institution shall discontinue recruiting and/or enrolling students and cease all instructional services and advertising in any form or type of media, including: <https://thegfculinaryschool.com>, and any other websites not identified here that are associated with the Institution.

The Institution shall submit a statement of attestation it has ceased to operate a private postsecondary educational institution unless it is operating under an exemption, and the date it ceased to operate. The statement of attestation shall be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Further, pursuant to CEC section 94917 – Enforceability of Loans:

A note, instrument, or other evidence of indebtedness relating to payment for an educational program is void and not enforceable unless, at the time of execution of the note, instrument, or other evidence of indebtedness, the institution held an approval to operate or valid out-of-state registration with the bureau.

Therefore, the Institution shall not enforce any loans pursuant to CEC section 94917.

Order of Abatement: Affirmed. The order of abatement has been satisfied.

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

6. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 5 CCR sections 75020 and 75040, the Bureau issues the order(s) of abatement described above. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement must be submitted to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of issuance of this modified citation. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement may sent by mail or email to:
 - Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Discipline Unit – Nicole Pedersen
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834
 - Email: bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov
 - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

COMPLIANCE WITH ASSESSMENT OF FINE

7. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936, and 5 CCR section 75020 et seq., the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fines in the total amount of \$12,500.00. for the violations described above. Payment of the fines must be made to the Bureau within 30 days from the

date of service of this modified citation. To assist the Bureau in processing the payment of fines, please submit the enclosed *Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal* form.

Payment must be sent to the Bureau by mail at:

- Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Discipline Unit – Nicole Pedersen
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

8. Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75040(d), the modified decision is considered final, unless a request for a hearing was filed timely.

If the Institution requested a hearing and no longer chooses to proceed with the hearing, the Institution may request to withdraw the request for a hearing.

COMPLIANCE WITH FINE AND/OR ORDER OR ABATEMENT DISCLOSURE

9. Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75050, payment of the fine and/or compliance with any order of abatement does not constitute an admission of the violation charged and shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for the purposes of public disclosure.

Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75050, failure to comply with this citation order, its order of abatement, and/or administrative fine by the required due date is grounds for denial or discipline of an approval to operate. Where a citation is not contested and fine is not paid, the full amount of the assessed fine shall be added to the fee for renewal of the approval to operate. An approval to operate shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine. The Bureau may also enforce the administrative fine as if it were a money judgment pursuant to CEC section 94936.

BUREAU CONTACT INFORMATION

10. If you have any questions regarding this Citation, please contact Nicole Pedersen, Citation Analyst by email at Nicole.Pedersen@dca.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 232-0510.

Citation Number: 24250286
Institution: The Gluten Free Culinary School
Institution Code: Unapproved

"Original Signature on File"

8/13/2025

Elizabeth Elias
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

Citation Date of Issuance

Enclosures:

- Payment of Fine
- Withdrawal of Request for Administration Hearing
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail