



**APPEAL OF CITATION INFORMAL CONFERENCE**  
**DECISION; CITATION AFFIRMED**

July 24, 2019

Lambda Inc., dba Lambda School, Owner  
 Lambda School  
 5820 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Ste. 212  
 Pleasanton, CA 94588

Date of Issuance	Citation Number	Institution Code
July 24, 2019	1819150	Unapproved

On May 15, 2019, an informal telephone conference was held in the matter of Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement No. 1819150 (Citation) against Lambda Inc., dba Lambda School, Owner of Lambda School (Institution). In attendance were Yvette Johnson, Administrative Chief; Keith Zakarin, Attorney; and Trevor McKendrick, Lambda Counsel Chief of Staff.

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code, §148; California Education Code (CEC), section 94944; and Title 5 of California Code of Regulations (5, CCR), section 75020 and section 75040, the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) renders the following decision relative to your appeal of the Citation No. 1819150.

It is the decision of the Administrative Chief that on July 11, 2019, Citation No. 1819150 is affirmed for the following reason(s):

- No new substantive facts were presented at the conference.

**VIOLATION CODE SECTIONS**

#	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.
	<p>1. <b>Violation:</b>  <b>CEC Section 94886. Approval to Operate Required</b>  <i>"Except as exempted in Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874) or in compliance with the transition provisions in Article 2 (commencing with Section 94802), a person shall not open, conduct, or do business as a private postsecondary educational institution in this state without obtaining an approval to operate under this chapter."</i></p> <p><b>94858. Private Postsecondary Educational Institution</b>  <i>"Private postsecondary educational institution" means a private entity with a physical presence in this state that offers postsecondary education to the public for an institutional charge.</i></p> <p><b>CEC Section 94817.5. Approved to Operate or Approved</b>  <i>"Approved to operate" or "approved" means that an institution has received authorization pursuant to this chapter to offer to the public and to provide postsecondary educational programs."</i></p>

**CEC Section 94868. To Offer to the Public**

*"To offer to the public" means to advertise, publicize, solicit, or recruit."*

**CEC Section 94869. To Operate**

*"To operate" means to establish, keep, or maintain any facility or location in this state where, or from which, or through which, postsecondary educational programs are provided."*

On December 5, 2018, Bureau staff investigated the complaint to determine if the Institution was operating as a private postsecondary educational institution. The Institution is listed as "Lambda School" on their website and is advertising to the public a set of introductory and immersive courses in Full Stack Web, iOS Development, Android Development, Data Science, and UX Design. Tuition costs are not listed as they offer Income Sharing Agreements (ISAs). The institution's "How It Works" tab reads: "Lambda School trains people online to be software engineers at no up-front cost. Instead of paying tuition, students can agree to pay a percentage of their income after they're employed, and only if they're making more than \$50k per year. If you don't find a job, or don't reach that level of income, you'll never pay a cent."

The Institution's website indicates, as part of their FAQ tab, that students can pay an upfront tuition cost of \$20,000 instead of signing an ISA. This evidence confirms that the Institution violated the requirement for an Approval to Operate, per CEC section 94886, as the Institution is operating unapproved and charging students over \$2,500.00 in tuition and does not qualify for any of the exemptions under CEC section 94874.

On December 5, 2018, the Institution was contacted, via their website's instant message option, requesting information regarding the function of their California campus location. A response was not received.

A business license listing was found for Lambda School with the City of Pleasanton.

**Order of Abatement:**

The Bureau orders that the Institution cease to operate as a private postsecondary educational institution, unless the Institution qualifies for an exemption under CEC section 94874. The Institution must discontinue recruiting or enrolling students and cease all instructional services and advertising in any form or type of media, including the <https://lambdaschool.com> and any other websites not identified here that are associated with the Institution, until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. The Institution must disconnect all telephone service numbers including but not limited to (800) 883-1943 that are associated with the Institution until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. To comply with the Order of Abatement the Institution must submit a school closure plan to the Bureau pursuant to California Education Code section 94926. The Institution must provide a roster of each student currently enrolled at the Institution. The roster must include the names of the students, their contact information (including phone number, email address, and physical address), the programs in which they are enrolled, the amount paid for the programs.

**Assessment of Fine**

The fine for this violation is \$ 75,000.

**TOTAL MODIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$75,000.00**

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

The Bureau orders that you comply with the orders described in the 'Violation Code Sections' of this document and submit evidence of compliance within **30 days** from the date of this decision.

PENALTY – ASSESSMENT OF A FINE

Payment of the administrative fine is due within **30 days** from the date of this decision. Please complete the Payment of Fine form. Payment must be made to the Bureau by check, or money order. Please include the citation number on the payment of the fine assessment. Payment of the administrative fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged and shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for purposes of public disclosure. Payments may be mailed to:

Cheryl Lardizabal, Discipline Citation Program  
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95833

APPEAL OF CITATION

You *do not* have the right to request another Informal Conference to appeal this affirmed Citation. You *do*, however, have the right to appeal this affirmed Citation through an Administrative Hearing. A hearing before an Administrative Law Judge will be scheduled and you will be notified of the hearing date. The hearing will be held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CITATION AND FINE ASSESSMENT

This affirmed Citation is effective on July 24, 2019. The order of abatement and payment are due by **August 23, 2019**.

Failure to abate the violation or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed is grounds for denial of an application for an approval to operate or discipline. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce the Affirmed 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 decision or desire further information, please contact insert name, Cheryl Lardizabal, at (916) 621-2591 or at [Cheryl.Lardizabal@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Lardizabal@dca.ca.gov).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Villanueva  
Discipline Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Enclosures

- Payment of Fine - Waiver of Appeal Rights
- Withdrawal- Request for Administrative Hearing
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail