



CITATION ORDER

Citation Issued To: International Theological Seminary 540 E. Vine Avenue West Covina, CA 91790	Citation Number: 25260182
	Total Fine Amount: \$6,003.00
Institution Code: 1918921	Order of Abatement Included: Yes

Elizabeth Elias issues this 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 July 28, 2023, the Bureau renewed an Approval to Operate an Accredited Private Postsecondary Institution, Institution Code 1918921, to International Theological Seminary, hereinafter referred to as the "Institution." This Approval to Operate will expire on or about July 31, 2028, unless renewed.

DISCIPLINE HISTORY

2. The Institution has the following discipline history:
 - [Modified Citation No. 1819028, issued on October 18, 2018](#)
 - Evidence of compliance; citation satisfied May 23, 2019
 - [Citation No. 1920006, issued on July 18, 2019](#)
 - Evidence of compliance; citation satisfied September 19, 2019

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.

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Institution Code: 1918921

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

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

Violation #1:

CEC section 94902(a) – General Enrollment Requirements and 5 CCR section 71920(b)(3) – Student Records

Cause for Citation: On or about April 24, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed eight student files and found that seven of the student files reviewed contained an enrollment agreement that was not fully executed. The enrollment agreement did not contain a signature of an authorized employee of the institution, a general enrollment requirement.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class A" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,501.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to ensure all student records follow the law pursuant to CEC section 94902 and 5 CCR section 71920. The Institution must submit a statement of attestation that they have corrected the violation and will ensure that all student records contain signed enrollment agreements. The statement of attestation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #2:

CEC section 94902(b)(3) – General Enrollment Requirements and CEC section 94912 – Signature, Initials Required

Cause for Citation: On or about April 24, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed eight student files and found that two of the student files reviewed contained School Performance Fact Sheets (SPFS) that were not signed by the institution.

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Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class B" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,001.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to ensure all student records follow the law pursuant to CEC sections 94902 and 94912. The Institution must submit a statement of attestation that they have corrected the violation and will ensure that all student records contain signed and dated SPFS. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #3:

CEC section 94897(e) – Prohibited Business Practices

Cause for Citation: On or about April 24, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). During the inspection, Bureau staff reviewed the Institution's self-monitoring procedures, website and advertising materials and found that the Institution represented itself as being accredited by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau). The Bureau does not grant accreditation to institutions; it only issues an approval to operate. This representation is a violation of prohibited practice under CEC section 94897(e).

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class C" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1000.00.

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

To correct the violation of California Education Code section 94897(e), the Bureau orders the Institution to take immediate action to ensure compliance. The Institution must remove any statements from its self-monitoring procedures, website, and advertising that indicate or imply the Institution is accredited by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), as the Bureau does not provide accreditation.

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The Institution is required to submit a Statement of Attestation confirming that these corrective actions have been completed. The attestation must affirm that all inaccurate or misleading accreditation claims have been removed, and that the Institution will not advertise or indicate accreditation unless it has been accredited by a recognized accrediting agency. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #4:

5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records and CEC 94900.5(b) – Required Institutional Records

Cause for Citation: On or about April 24, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). During the inspection, Bureau staff reviewed three faculty records and found the records lacked documentation to demonstrate the educational qualifications for the faculty member records reviewed. The Institution forwarded proof of education to the Bureau after the inspection was concluded. However, the Institution failed to make the documentation immediately available for inspection.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class D” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$500.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to ensure all faculty records follow the law pursuant to 5 CCR sections 71720 and 71930 and CEC section 94900.5. The Institution must submit a statement of attestation they have corrected the violation and ensured that all faculty records are in compliance with the law. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

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Violation #5:

5 CCR section 71920(b)(10) – Student Records and 5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records

Cause for Citation: On or about April 24, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed two withdrawn student files and found that all withdrawn student files reviewed failed to include a refund document consistent with 5 CCR section 71920(b)(10).

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class B” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,001.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to submit a statement of attestation that they will maintain required student records pursuant to 5 CCR sections 71920 and 71930. The statement of attestation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Institution.

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

5. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 5 CCR section 75020, 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 citation. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement may be 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.

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COMPLIANCE WITH ASSESSMENT OF FINE

6. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936, and 5 CCR sections 75020 and 75030, the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fines in the total amount of \$6,003.00 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 citation unless an informal conference or hearing is requested. 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

7. You have the right to contest this citation through an informal conference with the Bureau pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 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, the Bureau must receive a written request within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation asking for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing or you may also submit the enclosed *Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing* form.

The written request may be sent by email or mail to the addresses below:

- Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
Attn: Discipline Unit – Nicole Pedersen
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834
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Failure to submit a written request for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation will forfeit your ability to appeal the citation.

If a hearing is requested, you are not required to comply with this citation until a final order is entered against you.

COMPLIANCE WITH FINE AND/OR ORDER OR ABATEMENT DISCLOSURE

8. Pursuant to BPC section 125.9 and 5 CCR section 75050, payment of 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.

BUREAU CONTACT INFORMATION

9. 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.

“Original Signature on File”

1/22/2026

Elizabeth Elias
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

Citation Date of Issuance

Enclosures:

- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail