



MODIFIED CITATION ORDER

Citation Issued To: Five Branches University 200 7 th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Institution Code: 4400381	Citation Number: 24250104
	Total Fine Amount: \$2,002.00
	Order of Abatement Included: No

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

- On or about April 5, 2021, the Bureau renewed an Approval to Operate an Accredited Private Postsecondary Institution, Institution Code 4400381 to Five Branches University hereinafter referred to as the “Institution”. This Approval to Operate will expire on or about April 5, 2026, unless renewed.

DISCIPLINE HISTORY

- The Institution has no prior discipline history.

CITATION JURISDICTION

- 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

- On or about November 5, 2024, the Bureau issued Citation No. 24250104. On or about December 4, 2024, the Bureau received an appeal with a request for an informal conference. The informal conference was held on January 31, 2025. New substantive facts were 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 94902 (a) - General Enrollment Requirements in conjunction with 5 CCR 71920 (b)(3) – Student Records

Cause for Citation: On or about October 3, 2023, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5 (a). Bureau staff reviewed three withdrawn student files and found that one of the student files reviewed did not contain a signed enrollment agreement.

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 \$5,000.00.

Administrative Fine: Modified. The Bureau modifies the administrative fine from \$5,000.00 to \$1,001.00. The violation is modified from a Class “A” violation to a Class “B” violation.

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. 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.

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

Violation #2:

CEC section 94902 (b)(3) – General Enrollment Requirements and CEC section 94912 – Signature, Initials Required in conjunction with 5 CCR 71920 (b)(3) – Student Records

Cause for Citation: On or about October 3, 2023, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5 (a). Bureau staff reviewed three withdrawn student files and found that one of the student files reviewed did not contain a signed School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS).

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.

Administrative Fine: Affirmed.

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 SPFS. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

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 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.

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 \$2,002.00 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.

Citation Number: 24250104
Institution: Five Branches University
Institution Code: 4400381

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.

“Original Signature on File”

2/5/2025

Elizabeth Elias
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

Citation Date of Issuance

Enclosures:

- Payment of Fine
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail