



GIA®

2024

Education Catalog

CARLSBAD CAMPUS
ONLINE DIVISION



Gemological Institute of America
The Robert Mouawad Campus
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Carlsbad, California 92008 USA
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www.GIA.edu

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Addendum to the 2024 Education Catalog Carlsbad Campus – Online Division

All data in the 2024 Education Catalog Carlsbad Campus – Online Division (“Catalog”) reflects information as it was available at the publication date. Updates and/or corrections to the Catalog made after the publication date appear in this addendum.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in the Catalog, GIA reserves the right, in its sole and exclusive discretion, to make changes to the Catalog at any time without prior notice. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of and understand University regulations as published.

Accreditation and Licensing, Licensing and Approvals, Other U.S. State Authorizations - Page 7;
Effective February 15, 2024

Corrections to the list of State Authorizations:

Arkansas – Not Applicable
America Samoa - Not Applicable
Arizona – Exempt
Colorado – Not Applicable
Illinois – Not Applicable
Kentucky – Approved
New Hampshire - Not Applicable
New Mexico – In Progress
North Carolina – Not Applicable
North Dakota – In Progress
N. Marianas Islands - Not Applicable
Oklahoma – In Progress
Puerto Rico – Application pending
Rhode Island – In Progress
Utah – In Progress
Wisconsin – Exempt
Wyoming – Approved

California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)- Page 39;
Effective April 1, 2024

The Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) assessment rate will change from two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges to zero dollar (\$0.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges.

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President's Welcome Message

As a GIA graduate, I can tell you firsthand how earning a Graduate Gemologist diploma changed the course of my life. After I completed the program, I had a new set of invaluable skills I could use to shape my future. I started at Borsheims as a sales associate and appraiser and worked my way up to president and CEO. Now I have the privilege and honor of being the president and CEO of GIA.

Many parts of my story are unique, yet it has one element in common with that of many GIA alumni. A GIA education empowered me to achieve my most cherished dream and, in many ways, took me even further than I could have imagined. It is no exaggeration to say that a GIA education is the best investment I made for my future, and I'm confident that this will prove true for you, too.

From gemology to jewelry design, you'll find a variety of programs at GIA, each tailored to give you the expertise you need to get ahead in your field of choice. The knowledge you gain here can equip you for diverse careers, such as sales, manufacturing, designing, appraisal, auctioning and more. Our alumni hold influential positions all along the gem and jewelry industry pipeline, and with a GIA diploma, you can take your place among them.

With over 155,000 active alumni in 55 chapters globally, the GIA Alumni Collective™ continues to offer support and expertise even after you graduate. This invaluable network will provide you with lifelong friendships, industry knowledge and career connections.

Take some time to explore the Education Catalog and find the program that is right for you. Then get ready to dive into gem and jewelry brilliance and a world of opportunity.

We look forward to accompanying you on your professional journey and helping you to follow your passion.

Susan M. Jacques, GIA GG
GIA President and CEO



Susan M. Jacques, GIA President and CEO - ©GIA

Mission and History

Mission Statement

GIA's mission is to ensure the public trust in gems and jewelry by upholding the highest standards of integrity, academics, science and professionalism through education, research, laboratory services and instrument development.

Educational Philosophy

GIA education ensures the public's trust by delivering the highest-quality gem and jewelry education in the world. At the heart of GIA education are the following guiding principles:

Research

We design our educational programs based on the latest research and leading technology.

Relevance

We teach the necessary balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Leadership

We empower our graduates to become industry leaders who act ethically and honestly, meeting the occupational demands of the global gem and jewelry industry.

Accessibility

Our curriculum meets the various needs of all students by offering programs and courses across several learning methodologies without compromising quality.

Sustainability

Through ongoing support, our graduates are encouraged to grow continuously as confident, skilled and successful professionals. They are GIA's partners in ensuring the public's trust in gems and jewelry.

History

On February 15, 1931, former retail jeweler Robert M. Shipley and his wife, Beatrice, cashed in their savings to establish their long-held dream – the Gemological Institute of America.

When most jewelers knew little about the gems they traded, Shipley wanted to professionalize the industry through education, research and gemological instrumentation.

The Institute, initially based out of their home, offered mimeographed mail-order courses and provided gem-testing services using borrowed microscopes and other equipment. From these modest beginnings, GIA has become an institution that has educated more than 365,000 professionals worldwide, a prestigious laboratory grading the world's most important diamonds, the leading gemological research center and the creator of the 4Cs and the International Diamond Grading System™ – the worldwide standard for evaluating diamond quality.

Visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about to learn more about GIA history.

Accreditation and Licensing

GIA is a nonprofit, private, postsecondary educational institution incorporated for the purpose of promoting education and research in gemology, jewelry arts and related subjects. The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713. The Standard Occupational Classification code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 51.9071.

Accreditation

GIA's online courses and lab classes are accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

GIA's main campus and worldwide headquarters in Carlsbad is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). ACCSC's accreditation is institutional in nature and includes GIA's U.S. On Campus Division programs only. GIA's online courses and lab classes do not fall within the purview of GIA's institutional accreditation by the ACCSC.

DEAC and ACCSC are listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agencies.

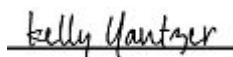
DEAC

2101 Wilson Blvd. Ste. 302
Washington, DC 20036 USA
+1 202 234 5100
www.deac.org

ACCSC

1101 17th Street NW, Ste. 808
Arlington, VA 22201 USA
+1 703 247 4212
www.accsc.org

The information contained in this catalog is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Kelly Yantzer, GIA VP Student Affairs

Licensing and Approvals

This institution is a private institution approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). Approval to operate means the institution is compliant with the minimum standards contained in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (as amended) and Division 7.5 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at 1747 North Market Blvd. Ste. 225 Sacramento, CA 95834. P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818, www.bppe.ca.gov, toll-free telephone number +1 888 370 7589, or by fax +1 916 263 1897.

As required by California Education Code 94909(a)(12), GIA discloses it has no pending petition in bankruptcy, is not operating as a debtor in possession, has not filed a petition within the preceding five years, and has not had a petition in bankruptcy filed against it within the preceding five years that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 1101 et seq.).

As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement, and is available on GIA's website at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information.

GIA's online courses and lab classes offered through the Online Division are not eligible for federal financial aid. GIA has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education to offer Title IV federal financial aid to qualified students enrolled in GIA's full-time, On Campus Graduate Gemologist (GG), Graduate Jeweler (GJ), and Jewelry Design & Technology (JDT) programs.

Additionally, GIA is approved for qualifying students to receive funding, including veteran's benefits and vocational rehabilitation funding, for the approved On Campus programs from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Students may not use VA GI Bill® Education Benefits for online courses or lab classes. Depending on the authorization from the student's VA counselor, GIA online courses or lab classes may qualify for use of Vet Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.

Other U.S. State Authorizations

GIA's campus in New York is licensed by the New York State Education Department, Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS).

New York State Education Department Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision

89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234 USA
+1 518 474 3969
www.acces.nysed.gov

GIA is approved and regulated by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Career Schools and Colleges, Austin, Texas. The Applied Jewelry Professional™ program is exempt from regulation under Texas Education Code, section 132.002 (a)(3).

GIA is Approved with a Certificate of Approval from the Kansas Board of Regents, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS, 66612-1368; 785-430-4240

GIA is exempt from authorization in Alaska under as 14.48 and this chapter because the program is online or distance delivered and the institution does not have physical presence in the state.

In addition to the approvals described above, GIA is authorized to offer, and/or recruit for, its online courses in the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Michigan and Nebraska.

GIA does not operate in Washington, D.C. and does not accept applications for online courses from the district's residents.

GIA has the exemption in Arizona and is authorized in Nevada and New York to deliver lab classes.

State licensing in compliance with United States Department of Education State Authorization Regulation in Section 600.9 Program Integrity Rule, GIA has made a "good faith effort" in pursuing state authorization from all states and territories within the U.S. GIA will continue to monitor developments in state laws in each state in which it enrolls students, and, if authorization or licensure is or becomes necessary, will obtain such additional approvals.

Alabama - Approved
Alaska - Exempt
America Samoa - Not Applicable
Arizona - Not Applicable
California - Approved
Colorado - Not Applicable
Connecticut - Exempt
Delaware - Not Applicable
District of Columbia- GIA does not operate in Washington, D.C.
Florida - Not Applicable
Georgia - Approved
Guam - Not Applicable
Hawaii - Not Applicable
Idaho - Not Applicable
Illinois - Exempt
Indiana - Not Applicable
Iowa - Not Applicable
Kansas - Approved
Kentucky - Approved
Louisiana - Not Applicable
Maine - Not Applicable
Maryland - Not Applicable
Massachusetts - Not Applicable
Michigan - Approved
Minnesota - Not Applicable
Mississippi - Not Applicable
Missouri - Not Applicable
Montana - Not Applicable
Nebraska - Approved
Nevada - Approved
New Hampshire - Exempt
New Jersey - Not Applicable
New York - Approved
North Carolina - Not Applicable
North Dakota - Not Applicable
N. Marianas Islands - Not Applicable
Ohio - Not Applicable
Oregon - Not Applicable
Pennsylvania - Not Applicable
Puerto Rico - Exempt
Rhode Island - Not Applicable
South Carolina - Not Applicable
South Dakota - Not Applicable
Tennessee - Not Applicable
Texas - Approved
Vermont - Not Applicable
Virginia - Not Applicable
Virgin Islands - Not Applicable
Washington - Not Applicable
West Virginia - Not Applicable
Wyoming - Exempt

GIA Affiliated Entities

GIA's locations outside the United States are approved to operate where such approval is required. Students interested in enrolling in courses at another GIA location or affiliated entity should refer to the catalog links at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/catalogs

Governance and Executive Management

Board of Governors

The GIA Board of Governors is the steward of the public interest. The board helps direct the strategy of the Institute to ensure that the mission and vision of GIA are followed in all decisions; that the reputation of GIA is preserved and continues to grow globally; and that the financial goals of the Institute are met. Each governor offers a unique perspective, based on their professional experience in retail, research, education, finance, law, manufacturing and other areas; several have extensive international experience.

Lisa A. Locklear - Chair

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Longeveron

Stephen F. Kahler - Vice Chair

Senior Advisor, Strategic Planning & Business Development,
Everidge

Dave Bindra

Vice President of Operations and Head of Acquisitions, B&B
Fine Gems

Lake Dai

Applied AI Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

Barbara Lee Dutrow, Ph.D.

Gerald Cire and Lena Grand Williams Alumni Professor in the
Department of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State
University

Kiko Harvey

Associate Senior Vice President of Audit Services,
University of Southern California

Susan M. Jacques

President and CEO, GIA

Robert Andrew 'Andy' Johnson

CEO, Diamond Cellar Holdings, LLC

Lawrence Ma

Chief Executive, Lee Heng Diamond Group
Founding President of the Diamond Federation of Hong Kong

Russell A. Mehta

Managing Director, Rosy Blue (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Thomas M. Moses

Executive Vice President and Chief Laboratory and Research
Officer, GIA

Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.

Curator-in-charge, National Gem and Mineral Collection,
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Samantha F. Ravich, Ph.D.

Chair of the Center for Cyber and Technology Innovation

Tammy Storino

Experienced global operations and finance leader

Marcus ter Haar

Experienced diamond industry executive

The list shown here is effective as of the publication date of this catalog; visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about-mission-governance-esg for an up-to-date listing.

Executive Management

GIA's executive staff constitutes a diverse group of highly experienced professionals from both inside and outside of the gem and jewelry industry. Responsible for carrying out the Institute's mission to protect and ensure the public trust globally, the executive team follows a strict code of ethics and seeks to infuse each initiative GIA undertakes with dedication and value-driven purpose.

Executive staff maintains daily operations for all areas of the Institute and promotes and continues the growth of GIA.

Visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about-mission-governance for the full list of GIA's executive management.

GIA Education Advisory Boards

The Education Committee of GIA's Board of Governors and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) provide input and perspectives vital to our success, growth and improvement. Our PAC reviews curricula, course materials, equipment, facilities and student outcomes as a means of external review of our programs. Its members are qualified trade representatives who help us keep pace with current occupational trends and practices in the gem and jewelry industry.

Education Committee of the Board

Barbara Lee Dutrow, Ph.D., Chair

Gerald Cire and Lena Grand Williams Alumni Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics
Louisiana State University

Dave Bindra

Vice President of Operations and Head of Acquisitions, B&B Fine Gems

Kiko Harvey

Associate Senior Vice President of Audit Services,
University of Southern California

Susan M. Jacques

President and CEO, GIA

Robert Andrew 'Andy' Johnson

CEO, Diamond Cellar Holdings, LLC

Lisa A. Locklear

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Longeveron

Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.

Mineralogist and Curator-in-Charge of Gems and Minerals,
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Program Advisory Committee

Pamela Balodimas

Regional High Jewelry Gemology Advisor, Cartier/Richemont
New York, NY

Jean Francois Bibet

Workshop Director, Cartier/Richemont
New York, NY

Barry S. Block

President, The Jewelry Judge
Carle Place, NY

Latoya Boyd

Jewelry and Fashion Designer, Jeweler and Influencer,
Latoya Boyd Jewelry
San Diego, CA

Wade Clar

Director of Brand Development, Julez Bryant
Carlsbad, CA

Ted Doudak

President, Riva Precision Manufacturing
Brooklyn, NY

Alexander Eblen

Vice President | Senior Specialist, Sotheby's
New York, NY

Rita Famulare

Owner, Famulare Jewelers
Carlsbad, CA

Alexandra Hart

Owner/Metals Artist and Designer Goldsmith, Alexandra Hart
San Diego, CA

Malcolm Koll

Owner, Charles Koll Jewelers
San Diego, CA

Gail Brett Levine

Executive Director, National Association of Jewelry Appraisers
Rego Park, NY

Christine Lopez

President and Co-Founder, Gem Surprise Box
San Diego, CA

Mary Todd McGinnis

Vice President, Ben Bridge Jewelers
Seattle, WA

Kevin Reilly

Senior Vice President, Platinum Guild International
New York, NY

Kapil Seth

Owner, Malhotra, Inc.
New York, NY

Ashwani (Sonny) K. Sethi

Owner, Tara & Sons
New York, NY

Lauren Stuller

Territory Manager, Customer Experience, Stuller, Inc.
Carlsbad, CA

Thom Underwood

Retired Former Owner, San Diego Gemological Laboratory
San Diego, CA

Kumud Wastrad

Director, High Jewelry - Diamond and Gemstone Acquisition,
Tiffany & Co.
New York, NY

Faculty and Education Management

Faculty

Our faculty are passionate educators dedicated to helping you gain knowledge, acquire skills and launch your career. Each has a minimum of three years of practical industry experience in the areas they teach, are trained in instructional methods and teaching skills, and participate in ongoing professional development activities.

The list shown here is effective as of the publication date of this catalog. Please refer to our website at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/distance/faculty for an up-to-date listing of faculty and their qualifications.

Online Gemology Courses

Mariam Aboushadi

BS Biology, University of California, San Diego,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Heather Cason, Supervisor

GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Lauren (Lo) Combs

BA Creative Process and Aesthetics of Music Performance and Studio Art, University of Redlands,
GIA GG, GIA AJP, GIA Pearls Graduate

Bethany Crane

BS Print Journalism Utah State,
GIA GG, GIA AJP

Donald Hofler

BS Organizational Leadership, Southern Nazarene University,
GIA GG, AJP

Noah Leverton

GIA GG, AJP

Michele Mejia

AA Mt. San Antonio, GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Daniela Pacheco

BFA Sculpture, Biola University,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Adam Shor, Teaching Assistant

BS Business Administration and Management, California State University, Fresno,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Glenn Wargo

BA Jewelry Design and Art History, Montclair University,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Danielle Yamamoto

BA English, California State University, Northridge,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Gemology Lab Classes; Carlsbad Campus

Mariam Aboushadi

BS Biology, University of California, San Diego,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Heather Cason, Supervisor

GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate

John Cason, Manager

GIA GG, AJP

Martin Harmon

GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate, AGS CG

Jessica Kramer

GIA GG, AJP

Carson Lee

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Michele Mejia

AA Mt. San Antonio, GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Daniela Pacheco

BFA Sculpture, Biola University,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Tim Richardson

MBA, Missouri State University,
BA Business Administration and Music, St. Norbert College,
GIA GG, AJP

Samantha Shor

BA Biology University of San Diego,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Nina Switzer-Spano

GIA GG, AJP

Teresa Tolbert

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Kate Trunnell

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate, AGS CG

Shelly Verwymeren

GIA GG, AJP, AGS CG

Glenn Wargo

BA Jewelry Design and Art History, Montclair University,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Kate Waterman

MEd Educational and Instructional Technology, Iowa State University, BLS General Studies and Humanity, Iowa State University,
GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Elly Wedge

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Danielle Yamamoto

BA English, California State University, Northridge,
GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Education Management

Duncan Pay

Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Corey Rosso

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Kelly Yantzer

Vice President, Student Affairs

Kimberly Overlin

Director, Student Services and Dean of Students

Amanda Perez

Assistant Dean of Students

Jennifer Kim

School Director, New York Campus

Renada Koebel

Director, Enrollment Services

Robyn Burrell

Director, Education Compliance and Financial Aid

Robert Weldon

Director, Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center

Alexandria Anderson

Senior Manager, Admissions & Recruitment

Peter Harts

Senior Manager, Career Services

Paul Mattlin

Senior Manager, Online Instruction

Heather Cason

Supervisor, Online Instruction

Brenda Harwick

Senior Manager, On Campus Instruction

John Cason

Manager, On Campus Instruction

Global Schools - Affiliated Entities

Claudia D'Andrea

Director, Operations, Thailand

Stella Lee

School Director, Hong Kong

Mehdi Saadian

School Director, London

Apoorva Deshingkar

Sr. Director, Education and Marketing, India

Po Yun Wang

School Director, Taiwan

Facility, Classrooms and Equipment

GIA's Carlsbad Campus and World Headquarters is located at The Robert Mouawad Campus, 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, California 92008 USA. All lab class offerings are held at this facility unless otherwise noted in the course schedule and the student's enrollment agreement. [Find the Carlsbad campus on Google maps; https://www.google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)

Facility

The facility is designed to support the Institute's mission by providing a safe and comfortable environment conducive to student learning and achievement. It covers 18 acres of land and includes 16 classrooms; a student workroom; the world's largest gemological library containing more than 65,000 books, over 1,000 periodical titles in various languages, and more than 2,000 videos and other media; a museum gallery; a student lounge; outdoor basketball and sand volleyball courts; a gemological research laboratory; administrative offices; parking for more than 1,000 vehicles, electric car charging stations, bike racks and access to public transportation.

Wireless Internet access is available at no charge throughout the campus. Computers with Internet access and CAD software are available in the Library for student use during normal operating hours.

Access to GIA buildings and classrooms is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and includes automated doors in all buildings and elevator access to the second floor.

To help ensure the safety and security of our students, employees and guests, the facilities have security officers on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week with restricted/monitored access to the campus and its buildings. Dedicated facilities and education services departments ensure the ongoing and routine maintenance of the facilities, equipment, and replenishment of supplies.

Classrooms and Equipment

Lab classes can accommodate up to 24 students. The Student Workroom can accommodate up to 12 students. The capacity of each online course varies to ensure an adequate student/instructor ratio and availability of support services. Each classroom is amply equipped with the instruments and tools used in each subject area.

Classroom equipment, tools and materials used are detailed within each lab class description in this catalog. [See "Lab Class Descriptions" on page 31](#)



Top: GIA's Carlsbad Campus and World Headquarters; Middle: Student Lounge Area; Bottom: GIA Student Workroom - ©GIA

School Calendar and Hours of Operation

2024 School Closure Dates

The campus is closed and services will not be available on these dates (exceptions noted below). Students may still access their online courses on these dates.

Date	Holiday / Event
January 01, 2024 (Monday)	New Year's Day
January 15, 2024 (Monday)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 02, 2024 (Friday)	AGTA GemFair, Tuscon (campus open, no classes)
February 19, 2024 (Monday)	President's Day
May 27, 2024 (Monday)	Memorial Day
May 31, 2024 (Friday)	JCK Show, Las Vegas (campus open, no classes)
June 10, 2024 (Monday)	Instructor In-Service Day
June 19, 2024 (Wednesday)	Juneteenth Freedom Day (campus open, no classes)
July 04, 2024 (Thursday)	Independence Day
September 02, 2024 (Monday)	Labor Day
September 27, 2024 (Friday)	Career Fair (campus open, no classes)
November 25, 2024 (Monday) through November 29, 2024 (Friday)	Thanksgiving Break
December 23, 2024 (Monday) through January 03, 2025 (Friday)	Winter Break

Hours of Operation

The Carlsbad campus is open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT except for the scheduled closures.

Registration Period

GIA has one year-long academic term with continuous enrollment. Registration is accepted five days prior to the first day of class.

Class Schedules and Classroom Hours

Online Courses

GEM 110, GEM 120 and GEM 130 courses have scheduled weekly starts every Tuesday. All other courses start on the first Tuesday of each month. Courses are self-paced and accessible seven days a week from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. PT from the start date through the end date of the course.

Lab Classes

Lab classes are scheduled throughout the year; visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for up to date schedules. Class hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT. Each day, there is a one-hour lunch break and one thirty-minute break in the morning. Additional breaks may be given at the instructor's discretion.

Student Workroom

The student workroom is available by appointment Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT except for scheduled closures.

Contacts and Resources

Department Contacts

Admissions

Admission, registration, enrollment, cancellation, general inquiries
+1 760 603 4001 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4001
admissions@gia.edu

Career Services

Career advising, resume and interview preparation, job search, career fair, guest speakers
+1 760 603 4450 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4450
careerservices@gia.edu

Dean of Students

Disability accommodations, leave of absence, withdrawal, probation, dismissal, complaints
+1 760 603 4093 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4093
deanstudents@gia.edu

Education Advising

General tutoring, academic progress support
+1 760 603 4382 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4382
edadvising@gia.edu

Education Service Desk - Technical Support

Applicant Portal, My GIA Education Portal and Blackboard log-in, access and other technical issues
+1 760 603 4350 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4350
www.GIA.edu/education-support

Financial Assistance

Vocational rehab, scholarships
+1 760 603 4005 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4005
financialaid@gia.edu

Stone Shipping

GEM 240 stone shipping requests
+1 760 603 4404 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4404
srequest@gia.edu

International Student Advising

U.S. arrival / departure, living in the U.S.
+1 760 603 4001 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4001
intladvisor@gia.edu

Online Course Student Support

General questions, student workroom
+1 760 603 4404 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4404
lessons@gia.edu

Student Accounts

Financial account, payments, refunds
+1 760 603 4470 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470
educationacctsrc@gia.edu

Student Records

Certificates, diplomas, transcripts, contact information updates, proctored exams, FERPA
+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312
records@gia.edu

Student Services

Housing, transportation, orientation, graduation
+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7304 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7304
studentservices@gia.edu

Title IX and 504 Coordinator

Questions or complaints related to Section 504 or Title IX
+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7776 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7776
titleixcoordinator@gia.edu | 504coordinator@gia.edu

Resources

GIA Alumni Collective™

Alumni resources, global chapters, networking events
+1 760 603 4145 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4145
<https://collective.gia.edu> | alumni@gia.edu

Blackboard Access (Current Students)

My GIA Education Portal: <https://education.gia.edu/>

Web: <https://blackboard.gia.edu>

Blackboard Learn App:



Web and App requires set-up of a new password.

GIA Store

Optional books and instruments
+1 760 603 4200 | +1 800 421 8161
<https://store.gia.edu> | giastore@gia.edu

Library

Library services and information
+1 760 603 4046 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4046
library@gia.edu

My GIA Education Portal

View academic, financial and student records; make payment, submit forms, access courses in Blackboard (single sign-on)
<https://education.gia.edu/>

TELUS Health Student Support

24/7 confidential mental health and well-being support
Phone: +1 866 743 7732
Web: <https://myssp.app/us/home>
TELUS App:



About Online Education

GIA Education's Online Division offers a flexible option to earn GIA credentials through a combination of self-paced, online courses and short instructor-led Lab classes.

Online Courses

Online courses offer an engaging learning environment that features text, audio, video, animation and slide shows and allow you study and progress at your schedule. See "[Online Course Descriptions](#)" on page 28

- Each course has a set number of online assignments with a questionnaire at the end to assess your knowledge and understanding of the subject. The Gem Identification course also has practical assignments and a final 20-stone exam where you identify gemstones that are shipped to your home or office or in a GIA Student Workroom.
- Course material and texts are available 24/7 beginning on the start date of the course with the exception of questionnaires.
- You can track your completed assignments and monitor your course progress online.
- You may go back and review completed assignments and download any available content at any time before the end date of the course.
- Each course has a final exam that requires a passing grade to earn your certificate. See "[Graduation Requirements - Online Diplomas](#)" on page 55 for more information.

Schedules and Completion Times

GEM 110, GEM 120 and GEM 130 courses have scheduled weekly starts every Tuesday. All other courses start on the first Tuesday of each month. Each course has a maximum completion time that is more than sufficient to complete all required coursework and the final exam by 11:59 p.m. PT on the end date of the course.

Instructor Support

Instructors are available by email or phone to answer questions and provide instruction and support Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT excluding holidays. Instructors also offer video conferencing by appointment during normal business hours.

Online Access and Technical Support

The My GIA Education Portal is your single point of entry to an array of web-based services and information. Online courses are administered using the Blackboard Learning Management System. You can access Blackboard through your My GIA Education Portal (single sign-on) or using the Blackboard App on tablet or mobile device. Technical support is available Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PT excluding holidays.

Technology Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.

Stone Set Loan Program

When you enroll in the Gem Identification online course, we loan you gems so you can study them at your home or office. We also provide guidance and instruction on how to set up your workstation so you get the most out of your gem identification experience. As an alternative, you may complete your practical assignments in a fully-equipped GIA Student Workroom as availability permits.

Student Workrooms

GIA Student Workrooms give you access to all the equipment and gemstones you need to complete the practical requirements of your Gem Identification course. The workroom is also helpful if you are preparing for your 20-stone final exam, taking a proctored exam, or practicing on equipment and gemstones. The following reservation requirements and fees apply for the Carlsbad campus:

- Workroom hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT
- Fees are \$50 for half day and \$100 for full day use of the workroom; there is no charge to take a final exam
- Reservations required; contact us at lessons@gia.edu or call at +1 800 421 7250 ext 4404 or +1 760 603 4000 ext 4404
- Reservations are not guaranteed for students who arrive late. Students who are repeatedly late may lose workroom privileges
- Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours prior to the reserved date to receive a full refund. For cancellations made with less than 24-hour notice, students will be charged for that day and any reservation for additional days will be canceled.

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/student-workroom for a complete list of Student Workroom schedules and availability at other GIA locations and affiliated entities.

Lab Classes

Lab classes are where you gain hands-on experience by grading diamonds and learning to use professional gemological equipment under the expert guidance and support of a GIA instructor. Lab classes may be taken at any GIA location or GIA-affiliated entity worldwide. See "[Lab Class Descriptions](#)" on page 31

How to Earn your Online Diploma

When you successfully complete an individual course or class, you will earn a certificate (online courses) or letter of completion (lab classes). To earn your online diploma, you must enroll and complete the required combination of individual online courses and lab classes. See "[Online Diploma Programs](#)" on page 17 for the courses and classes required to earn each online diploma.



Top: Student working on online course assignments; Bottom: Student completing practical coursework in a GIA Student Workroom - ©GIA

Online Diploma Programs

Students enroll in and complete the required combination of individual self-paced, online courses and lab classes to earn their diploma. We recommend the order shown here to maximize your comprehension of key concepts and course objectives.

Program Course Number	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
Graduate Gemologist® — See program description and objectives on page 18						
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 230	Diamonds & Diamond Grading	GEM 130	20	15 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 230L	Diamond Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 31
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 220	Colored Stones	GEM 120	27	18 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 220L	Colored Stone Grading Lab	None	-	-	21	Page 31
GEM 240L	Gem Identification Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 32
GEM 240	Gem Identification	GEM 220, GEM 240L	44	24 Months	-	Page 29
			Total lessons: 106	Total lab hours: 91		
Graduate Colored Stones — See program description and objectives on page 20						
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 220	Colored Stones	GEM 120	27	18 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 220L	Colored Stone Grading Lab	None	-	-	21	Page 31
GEM 240L	Gem Identification Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 32
GEM 240	Gem Identification	GEM 220, GEM 240L	44	24 Months	-	Page 29
			Total lessons: 79	Total lab hours: 56		
Graduate Diamonds — See program description and objectives on page 22						
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 230	Diamonds & Diamond Grading	GEM 130	20	15 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 230L	Diamond Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 31
			Total lessons: 27	Total lab hours: 35		
Graduate Pearls — See on program description on page 24						
GEM 149	Pearls	None	8	6 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 149L	Pearl Grading Lab	None	-	-	7	Page 31
			Total lessons: 8	Total lab hours: 7		
Applied Jewelry Professional™ — See program description on page 26						
GEM 110	Jewelry Essentials	None	6	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
			Total lessons: 21	Total lab hours: 0		

Graduate Gemologist®



Description

The Graduate Gemologist diploma program delivers a comprehensive gemology education covering both diamonds and colored stones. Topics covered include historical and current industry information, practices throughout the supply chain and relevant diamond and colored stone source information. Students learn the science behind diamond and colored stone formation, appearance and identification, how to describe color by hue, tone and saturation and how to evaluate diamond and colored stone quality factors. Students apply classroom knowledge through in-depth, practical application of the GIA International Diamond Grading System™ and the GIA Colored Stone Grading System. Using professional gemology equipment, students identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants; distinguish natural, treated and laboratory-grown diamonds and gemstones; and grade diamonds and colored stones.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the diamond and colored stone supply chain
- Explain the science of diamond and colored stone formation, appearance and identification
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value
- Grade diamonds using the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight)
- Identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants
- Grade colored stones using the GIA Colored Stone Grading System
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Identify the relationship between proportions and diamond weight
- Describe the GIA International Diamond Grading System™
- Describe the GIA Colored Stone Grading System

What you will Earn

GIA Graduate Gemologist Online Diploma

Occupations May Include

Appraiser, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Colored Stone Buyer, Diamond Buyer, Diamond Sorter/Grader, Estate Jewelry Dealer, Staff Gemologist, Inventory Control Specialist, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Buyer, Jewelry Sales Professional, Lab and Research Professional, Merchandiser, Pawnbroker, Retailer, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Online Diploma Requirements

Enroll in and complete five online courses and three lab classes to earn your online diploma. You may take courses without prerequisites in any order. We recommend the order shown here to maximize your comprehension of key concepts and course objectives.

Course Numbers	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 230	Diamonds & Diamond Grading	GEM 130	20	15 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 230L	Diamond Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 31
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 220	Colored Stones	GEM 120	27	18 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 220L	Colored Stone Grading Lab	None	-	-	21	Page 31
GEM 240L	Gem Identification Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 32
GEM 240	Gem Identification	GEM 220, GEM 240L	44	24 Months	-	Page 29
			Total lessons: 106	Total lab hours: 91		

See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

See "Class Schedules and Classroom Hours" on page 13



GIA microscope; rough and polished amethyst - ©GIA

Graduate Colored Stones



Description

The Graduate Colored Stones diploma program blends theoretical knowledge with practical application. Topics include gemstone formation, properties, sources and the colored stone supply chain. Students learn how to describe color by hue, tone and saturation, which gemstones are commercially important and what factors affect gem price and availability. The course describes the general observation process, standard gemological tests and equipment and when advanced laboratory testing and instrumentation is needed for accurate identification. Using professional gemology equipment, students identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants; distinguish natural, treated and laboratory-grown diamonds and colored stones; and grade colored stones.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the colored stone supply chain
- Explain the science of colored stone formation, appearance and identification
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value
- Identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants
- Grade colored stones using the GIA Colored Stone Grading System
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Describe the GIA Colored Stone Grading System

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Colored Stones Diploma

Occupations May Include

Colored Stone Grader, Colored Stone Sorter, Appraiser, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Colored Stone Buyer, Estate Jewelry Dealer, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Buyer, Jewelry Sales Professional, Pawnbroker, Retailer, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Online Diploma Requirements

Enroll in and complete three online courses and two lab classes to earn your online diploma. You may take courses without prerequisites in any order. We recommend the order shown here to maximize your comprehension of key concepts and course objectives.

Course Numbers	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 220	Colored Stones	GEM 120	27	18 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 220L	Colored Stone Grading Lab	None	-	-	21	Page 31
GEM 240L	Gem Identification Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 32
GEM 240	Gem Identification	GEM 220, GEM 240L	44	24 Months	-	Page 29
			Total lessons: 79	Total lab hours: 56		

See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

See "Class Schedules and Classroom Hours" on page 13



Tanzanite crystal and polished gem. Courtesy: Isle of Gems Co. Ltd./Peter Pereira

Graduate Diamonds



Description

The GIA Graduate Diamonds course introduces the foundational skills and knowledge required to make informed decisions when grading, buying and selling diamonds. Students learn the science behind diamond formation, appearance and identification, and discover historical and current diamond industry information and practices throughout the supply chain. Coursework includes the application of the GIA International Diamond Grading System™ to assess the 4Cs – color, clarity, cut and carat weight – and how they affect diamond value. Students use professional diamond grading equipment to examine and plot diamond quality characteristics; grade diamonds according to the 4Cs; detect common diamond treatments; identify diamond simulants. Additionally, students learn the science behind laboratory-grown diamond formation, what tools can be helpful in identification of lab-grown diamonds and when to submit to a laboratory for further testing.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the diamond supply chain
- Explain the science of diamond formation, appearance and identification
- Grade diamonds using the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight)
- Identify the relationship between proportions and diamond weight
- Describe the GIA International Diamond Grading System™
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Diamonds Online Diploma

Occupations May Include

Diamond Buyer, Diamond Grader, Diamond Assorter, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Sales Professional, Retailer, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Online Diploma Requirements

Enroll in and complete two online courses and one lab classes to earn your online diploma. You may take courses without prerequisites in any order. We recommend the order shown here to maximize your comprehension of key concepts and course objectives.

Course Numbers	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 230	Diamonds & Diamond Grading	GEM 130	20	15 Months	-	Page 29
GEM 230L	Diamond Grading Lab	None	-	-	35	Page 31
			Total lessons: 27	Total lab hours: 35		

See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

See "Class Schedules and Classroom Hours" on page 13



Rough and polished diamonds - ©GIA

Graduate Pearls



Description

The Graduate Pearls diploma program provides the product knowledge and grading skills to effectively buy inventory and build confidence when buying and selling Akoya, South Sea, Tahitian and freshwater pearls. You will be taught GIA's 7 Pearl Value Factors™: size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality and matching – the essential criteria for assessing the value and beauty of pearls. Topics covered include post-harvest treatments, imitation pearls and pearl testing.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713.

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate and grade cultured pearls based on GIA's 7 Pearl Value Factors
- Identify "other" pearl types found in the marketplace
- Describe common pearl treatments
- Explain the differences between natural and cultured pearls
- Explain the process of pearl culturing and marketing
- Describe the components of the GIA Pearl Report(s)
- Describe the relationship of beauty, value, and quality

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Pearls Online Diploma

Occupations May Include

Pearl Grader, Pearl Assorter, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Sales Professional, Pearl Buyer, Retailer, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Diploma Requirements

Enroll in and complete one online course and one lab class to earn your online diploma. You may take courses in any order. We recommend the order shown here to maximize your comprehension of key concepts and course objectives.

Course Numbers	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
GEM 149	Pearls	None	8	6 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 149L	Pearl Grading Lab	None	-	-	7	Page 31
			Total lessons: 8	Total lab hours: 7		

[See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36](#)

[See "Class Schedules and Classroom Hours" on page 13](#)



South Sea cultured pearl and mollusk - ©GIA

Applied Jewelry Professional



Description

The Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®) diploma program covers topics including jewelry designs, setting styles, jewelry care and other content that will support the product knowledge of current industry professionals. Students learn basic information about diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and the GIA clarity grading system. Other subjects of study include how modern technology is changing the way diamonds are cut, the qualities of precious metals, major jewelry manufacturing methods and the important activities involved in the operation of a retail jewelry store. To enable effective product conversations, examples are provided on how to translate jewelry features into benefits and how to communicate the 4Cs of diamond value to customers. The AJP coursework provides clear and concise information that can be immediately implemented on the job.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the GIA International Diamond Grading System™
- Explain how the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight) affect a diamond's value
- Explain the differences between treated, laboratory-grown and imitation stones to sell with full disclosure
- Understand the steps of the jewelry sales process
- Translate jewelry design, style and manufacturing features into benefits
- Convey the romance, lore and characteristics of the most popular colored gemstones

What You Earn

GIA Applied Jewelry Professional Online Diploma

Occupations May Include

Jewelry Sales Professional, Jewelry Assistant Manager, Jewelry Consultant, Jewelry Service Advisor, Assistant Inventory Manager, Television Shopping Host, Pawnbroker

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Diploma Requirements

Enroll in and complete three online courses to earn your online diploma. You may take courses in any order.

Course Numbers	Course Title (Subject)	Prerequisites	Number of Lessons	Maximum Completion Time	Lab Hours	Course Description
GEM 110	Jewelry Essentials	None	6	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 120	Colored Stone Essentials	None	8	3 Months	-	Page 28
GEM 130	Diamond Essentials	None	7	3 Months	-	Page 28
			Total lessons: 21	Total lab hours: 0		

See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

See "Class Schedules and Classroom Hours" on page 13



Rough and polished opal. Courtesy: Cenki Thomas

Online Course Descriptions

Online courses are self-paced and accessible seven days a week from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. PT from the start date to the end date of the course. Students who pace themselves appropriately will have sufficient time to complete all course requirements, including all lessons, quizzes and exams, within the maximum completion time. Students who do not pass their final exam prior to the end date receive a final grade of NP (No Pass).

GEM 110 Jewelry Essentials

This course examines jewelry's important features and how they combine to give a piece its unique value. Content includes the unique qualities of precious metals, how to describe them to customers, and how to identify jewelry types and styles, using industry terms to describe them. Coursework also includes an examination of the different jewelry manufacturing methods, and how they can affect style, appearance and durability. Other topics include how precious metals are regulated, marketed and tested, and the key components of a compelling product presentation. The course also covers watches and gift-ware. The final exam is online, open book and does not require a proctor. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Applied Jewelry Professional™ Online Diploma
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 3 months
- **Consists of:** 6 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Jewelry Essentials Certificate

GEM 120 Colored Stone Essentials

This course provides essential knowledge of colored stones, with an in-depth focus on the "Big Three" of the gemstone world: ruby, sapphire and emerald. Subjects covered include the language of colored stones; color's powerful role in gemstone value and the unique characteristics of popular colored stones; and how color, clarity, cut and carat weight affect a gem's value. The final exam is online, open book and does not require a proctor. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook and the GIA Essential Colored Stone Reference Guide prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Applied Jewelry Professional, Graduate Gemologist® and Graduate Colored Stones Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 3 months
- **Consists of:** 8 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Colored Stone Essentials Certificate

GEM 130 Diamond Essentials

This course covers how to describe diamond jewelry accurately for effective and ethical sales conversations with customers. Key topics examined include the internationally accepted GIA clarity grading system, how diamonds are graded for color and how color affects value. Coursework includes how modern technology is changing the way diamonds are cut, the relationship between size and weight and how retail jewelry stores operate. The final exam is online, open book and does not require a proctor. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Applied Jewelry Professional, Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Diamonds Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 3 months
- **Consists of:** 7 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Diamond Essentials Certificate

GEM 149 Pearls

This course examines how to buy and sell Akoya, South Sea, Tahitian and freshwater pearls with insight and skill; and GIA's 7 Pearl Value Factors™: size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality and matching. You will be taught the difference between natural and cultured pearls, post-harvest treatments, imitation pearls and pearl testing. The final exam is online, open book, and does not require a proctor. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Graduate Pearls Online Diploma
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 6 months
- **Consists of:** 8 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Pearls Certificate

GEM 220 Colored Stones

The next step after Colored Stone Essentials, this course provides in-depth knowledge about the multitude of colored stones sold in today's market. Topics include: which gems are commercially important and why, the differences in gem values and shifting supply patterns, and how these factors affect gem prices and availability. The final exam is online, closed book and proctored. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist, Graduate Colored Stones Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** GEM 120
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 18 months
- **Consists of:** 27 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Colored Stones Certificate

GEM 230 Diamonds & Diamond Grading

This course covers the skills needed to grade the color, clarity and cut of diamonds. Subjects explored include determining proportions and estimate weight; the fundamentals of diamond treatments, simulants and laboratory-grown diamonds; and the effect of fluorescence on diamond body color. Other topics discussed include the role cut plays in the marketplace; the technical knowledge needed to make effective buying and selling decisions; and other segments of the diamond industry – dealing, cutting, manufacturing. The final exam is online, closed book and proctored. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Diamonds Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** GEM 130
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 15 months
- **Consists of:** 20 lessons and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Diamonds & Diamond Grading Certificate

GEM 240 Gem Identification

This course blends the theoretical knowledge and practical experience of identifying natural, laboratory-grown, treated gems and simulants. In their practical work, students practice using the equipment, tests and process to identifying over 500 gemstones including more than 60 species. Topics include gem treatments in the market today as well as advanced laboratory testing and instrumentation. The 20-stone final exam is closed book (except for lab manual) and proctored. Students may download and save a PDF copy of the textbook and lab manual prior to the course end date.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Colored Stones Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** GEM 220, GEM 240L
- **Self-paced; maximum completion time:** 24 months
- **Consists of:** 44 lessons (19 online, 25 practical) and a final exam
- **What you earn:** Gem Identification Certificate

In this course, students use RI (refractive index) liquid which contains diiodomethane also known as Methylene Iodide. [See "Student Notification of Classroom Chemical Usage" on page 66](#) for more information.

Completing Practical Assignments

GIA Student Workroom. Students may choose to complete all practical assignments in a GIA Student Workroom as availability permits where they have access to all required equipment and stones. There is a \$100 per day charge for using the workroom and no charge for taking exams. Students are responsible for living expenses. On average, our students complete their practical assignments in 20-30 days in the workroom; we have had students take up to 80 days.

Home or Office. Students who live in the U.S., or in a country where GIA is able to ship stones per customs regulations, may complete practical assignments in their home or office. Students must confirm access to required equipment listed below prior to registration (photo required). Stones are shipped to students according to the Stone Set Loan Program listed below. [See "Required_Equipment" on page 30](#) and ["Stone_Set_Loan_Program" on page 30](#)

Required Equipment

Equipment may be purchased in the marketplace or through the GIA Store at <https://store.GIA.edu/collections/gem-identification> based on availability.

- Binocular microscope with a minimum of 10x and 30x magnification and darkfield illumination
- Daylight-equivalent (5500k - 6500k) fluorescent overhead light source (included with some microscopes)
- Refractometer with removable magnification piece, white light source, and polarizing filter
- Monochromatic light source
- Refractive index (RI) liquid 1.81
- Calcite dichroscope
- Spectroscope (diffraction grating preferred)
- Polariscopes
- Interference figure sphere (included with most polariscopes)
- Plastic or glass diffuser lens
- Non-locking gem tweezers
- Pinpoint incandescent light source
- Gem cloth

Contact us at lessons@gia.edu with for help determining if the equipment you have or plan to purchase meets the requirements.

Stone Set Loan Program

GIA loans stone sets to students who complete practical assignments at their home or office. Stones are shipped pursuant to all customs laws and regulations. Students may not transport stones over international borders (outside country of receipt); students are subject to customs laws, regulations and penalties. Customs regulations, beyond GIA's control, may delay or even prevent us without notice from shipping stones to certain countries.

Loan periods. The loan period for US, domestic students is 60 days for the first stone set and 30 days for each set thereafter. The loan period for international students is 60 days for the first stone set and up to one year for the full international set of 480 stones. If a student goes on an approved leave of absence, they are required to return all stone sets prior to the requested leave and within the loan period.

Late, lost or damaged stones. Students who lose, damage or otherwise fail to return any stone must pay the cost of replacement. The replacement cost includes GIA's established value for each stone, plus labor and material costs. Loan periods are not extended for students on leave, we ask that they return all stone sets prior to the requested leave and within the loan period.



The student package available through the GIA Store includes the basic gemological equipment to get you started - ©GIA

Lab Class Descriptions

Lab classes are where you gain hands-on experience grading diamonds, colored stones and pearls and learning to use professional gemological equipment.

GEM 149L Pearl Grading Lab

The GIA Pearl Grading Lab guides students through the grading and classification of pearls using GIA's 7 Pearl Value Factors™. Through practical coursework, students evaluate size, shape, color, luster, surface, nacre thickness and matching.

Students must pass a two-stone assessment to complete the class successfully. Classrooms contain a pearl gauge and other instruction aids. Each student workstation includes a daylight equivalent light source and a pearl grading master set with an informational keycard. Students receive a lab manual, color reference chart, gem cloth and pencil as part of the course materials.

- **Required for:** Graduate Pearls Online Diploma
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Hours / Duration:** 7 clock hours / 1 day
- **What you earn:** Letter of Completion

GEM 220L Colored Stone Grading Lab

The Colored Stone Grading Lab learn how to grade the color, clarity and cut quality of a wide range of colored stones through practical coursework. Topics include how to describe a gem's color by hue, tone and saturation and how to evaluate gems using the GIA Colored Stone Grading System.

Students must pass a two-stone final exam to complete the class successfully. Each student workstation includes either a binocular microscope or daylight equivalent light source and 10x loupe. Students receive a lab manual, color description system pamphlet, tweezers, gem cloth, pinpoint incandescent light source, color grading card and pencil as part of the course materials.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Colored Stones Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Hours / Duration:** 21 clock hours / 3 days
- **What you earn:** Letter of Completion

GEM 230L Diamond Grading Lab

The Diamond Grading Lab introduces students to the procedures used to grade diamonds according to GIA's International Diamond Grading System™. Using round brilliant cut diamonds on the D-Z color scale, students apply their knowledge by assigning color, clarity and cut grades, determining proportions and weight and documenting fluorescence. Students also learn how to identify and plot clarity characteristics and receive hands-on practice separating natural diamond from common simulants.

Students must pass a two-stone final exam to complete the class successfully. Classrooms contain a GIA DiamondDock™ and UV lamp with viewing cabinet. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with a daylight equivalent overhead light source, LED light, calculator and diamond grading tray. Students receive a lab manual, tweezers, 10X loupe, pointer probe, gem cloth, plotting pen set, table gauge, crown angle card, color grading card and pencil as part of the course materials.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Diamonds Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Hours / Duration:** 35 clock hours / 5 days
- **What you earn:** Letter of Completion



Diamond Grading Lab students assess a diamond's clarity using a 10X jeweler's loupe - ©GIA

GEM 240L Gem Identification Lab

The Gem Identification Lab introduces students to the general observation process and the operation of the gemological equipment used to test and identify colored stones. Instructors demonstrate key tests and coach students on effective testing procedures. Students use gemological instruments to practice identifying natural and laboratory-grown gemstones, imitations and assembled stones.

Students must pass an instrumentation exam to complete the class successfully. Classrooms contain a table model prism spectroscope, color filter, fiber optic light, UV lamp with viewing cabinet and a utility lamp. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with a daylight equivalent overhead light source, handheld spectroscope, dichroscope, refractometer, refractive index (RI) liquid, diffuser plate, polariscope, optic figure sphere and monochromatic light source. Students receive a lab manual, color description system pamphlet, tweezers, gem cloth, pinpoint incandescent light source, color grading card and pencil as part of the course materials.

- **Required for:** Graduate Gemologist and Graduate Colored Stones Online Diplomas
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Hours / Duration:** 35 clock hours / 5 days
- **What you earn:** Letter of Completion

In this class, students use RI (refractive index) liquid which contains diiodomethane also known as Methylene Iodide. See ["Student Notification of Classroom Chemical Usage"](#) on page 66 for more information.



Gem Identification Lab students learn the proper use of gemological equipment like a polariscope (top) and dichroscope (bottom) - ©GIA

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to GIA's Online Division, applicants must meet the following requirements.

- Have a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- Be at least 16 years of age and at least 18 years of age prior to attending a lab class.
 - Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian give consent and sign their enrollment agreement.
- Have the ability to read and write in English at the level of a U.S. high school graduate.

All programs are taught in English. GIA does not offer English as a second language (ESL) instruction.

Required Documents

Applicants must provide the following documents along with their completed application. All documents must be in English or accompanied by an English-language translation provided by a translation service.

Identification

- A copy of a valid, government-issued photo ID that shows your full legal name and birth date (such as a passport, driver's licence, ID card).

Proof of Graduation

Copy of your diploma or degree, or an official transcript showing the graduation date for ONE of the following:

- High school / high school equivalency diploma
- Undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited college or university
- State-issued secondary school completion for home-schooled high school graduates

If sending an official transcript, it must be sent directly from your school to GIA.

Name Change Documentation (if applicable)

If your legal name differs from the one on a required admission document, you must show proof of a legal name change that ties all of your documents together. Provide a copy of a court-issued document showing your former and new legal name, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or other court-issued document.

Proof of Graduation - Extenuating Circumstances

An applicant who meets all admission requirements but is unable to obtain proof of graduation after exhausting all avenues may submit a petition of exception to GIA's admissions committee. For example, a student from a war-torn country whose school no longer exists. The student may be approved to take and pass an admissions test as determined by GIA in lieu of documentation and provide a signed statement attesting that they in fact obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent along with the reason(s) why documentation cannot be provided. Contact admissions@gia.edu for inquiries.

How to Apply

To apply for admission to GIA's Online Division:

1. Determine your academic and financial obligations, time commitment and if your program of interest aligns with your educational and career goals. Contact admissions@gia.edu with any questions.
2. Complete the readiness assessment to determine if online education is a good fit for you: https://gia.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_70rUUajjYla10DY
3. Confirm that you meet the admission requirements listed on [page 33](#)
4. Gather the required documents listed on [page 33](#)
5. Create an account and sign in to GIA's applicant portal at www.GIA.edu/applynow
6. Follow the instructions to complete your application and upload your supporting documentation
7. Review and submit your application

A GIA admissions representative will review your application to ensure you have met all requirements and notify you of your acceptance or denial of admission. Application deadline for lab classes is one week prior to your intended class start date.

Registration and Enrollment

Within 24 hours of your acceptance for admission, you will receive log in credentials for the My GIA Education Portal where you may register for online courses and make payment. After registration, an enrollment agreement is sent to your email address on record. This agreement includes your course details, financial obligations, important policies and notices. You are not enrolled until this agreement is signed by both you and the school official.

Your registration will be cancelled if you fail to make the required payment or accept the terms of your enrollment agreement prior to the first day of class.

Admitted students who fail to register or maintain continued enrollment will be required to reapply for admission after a six month period of non-enrollment.

Pre-enrollment Interview

For the Gem Identification online course (GEM 240), you must complete an interview with your instructor at least 14 calendar days prior to the class start date. During the interview, the instructor will review the course requirements and confirm your access to the required gemological equipment if you will be completing practical assignments at your home or office. The instructor will request photo documentation of the equipment you will be using.

International Students and Visas

International students who wish to take lab classes or use the student workroom in the U.S. must be aware of the rules and regulations that govern their stay and be certain to enter on the U.S. on the appropriate visa. GIA does not vouch for international applicants and does not offer visa services. For information about temporary visitors, visit the U.S. Consulate's website for your home country at <https://www.usembassy.gov>

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is GIA's policy not to engage in discrimination against, or harassment of any student enrolled in or seeking enrollment in GIA on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, religion, creed, gender, age, disability, medical condition, pregnancy or parental status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, caste, union membership, political affiliation, physical appearance, HIV status, or any other classification protected by applicable federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations, and remaining compliant and consistent with the Civil Rights Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy on non-discrimination applies to admissions, enrollment, scholarships, loan programs, employment, and access to participation in all GIA programs and activities.

Residency and Applicant Screening

Educational services to some countries may be restricted by U.S. law. Additionally, all applicants are screened against global watch lists to comply with U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and other applicable laws and regulations. GIA may not admit individuals who are sanctioned or reside in a country or territory sanctioned by the U.S. government. Visit www.GIA.edu/ethics-compliance for more information.

GIA does not operate in Washington, D.C. and does not accept applications for online courses from the district's residents.

Prior Criminal Offenses

GIA does not require applicants to provide information about prior criminal offenses. Please note that prior convictions may result in challenges in securing employment after graduation.

Payment Methods

After registration, students may make payments online through the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>. Student accounting staff are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time at +1 800 421 7250 ext 4470, +1 760 603 4470 or email educationacctsrec@gia.edu

All payments must be in U.S. Dollars. Please note the following information regarding payment methods.

Credit Card. Pay online using VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express

ACH. Pay online using ACH (electronic bank transfer). Payment must be drawn on a U.S. bank.

Check or Money Order. Pay by mail with a cashier's check, personal check or money order payable to GIA. Payment must be drawn on a U.S. bank.

Wire Transfer. Pay online using Western Union. To use another wire transfer provider, contact us at +1 800 421 7250 ext 4470, +1 760 603 4470, or educationacctsrec@gia.edu for details. Students are responsible for any wire transfer fees that they incur.

Third-Party Payer Information

If someone other than the student is paying any part of a student's tuition and fees, such persons will be required to provide their full name and country of residence on the application for admission and once again at the time of payment. If a student's employer is paying any part of a student's tuition and fees, the student or the employer will be required to provide the full company name and address or other identifying information at GIA's request.

Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution

The transferability of credits you earn at the Gemological Institute of America is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the diploma or certificate you earn in the educational program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the diploma or certificate that you earn at this institution is not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending the Gemological Institute of America to determine if your diploma or certificate will transfer.

Transfer Credit Policy

GIA does not accept transfer credit from other institutions. GIA does not currently have an articulation or transfer agreement with any other institution. GIA does not accept transfer credit for experiential or equivalent learning, challenge examinations or achievement tests.

GIA will evaluate prior credit for students receiving VA and DOD (Department of Defense) benefits, grant credit as appropriate (if applicable), notify the student of the evaluation, and adjust the program hours accordingly (if applicable). Students should contact GIA at financialaid@gia.edu for more information.

Transferability of Coursework to another GIA Program

Programs, courses or lab classes successfully completed at a GIA campus location or a GIA-affiliated school entity will be accepted for applicable credit toward an online diploma.

Coursework successfully completed in an On Campus program that satisfies a graduation or completion requirement will be accepted toward an online diploma. Contact the dean of students at deanstudents@gia.edu for more information.

Student Consumer Information

Additional Student Consumer Information may be found at our website www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Tuition and Fees

Total charges are valid for courses and classes from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and are subject to change with reasonable advanced notice. Amounts shown are in U.S. dollars.

Online Courses

Course	Course Fees		Additional Costs (Estimated)**				
	Tuition	CA STRF*	Optional Books	Proctoring per Exam	Student Workroom	Equipment	Stone Shipping
GEM 110 - Jewelry Essentials	\$300	\$0	\$70	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 120 - Colored Stones Essentials	\$400	\$0	\$140	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 130 - Diamond Essentials	\$350	\$0	\$70	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 149 - Pearls	\$640	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 220 - Colored Stones	\$2,160	\$5	\$325	\$30 - \$100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 230 - Diamonds & Diamond Grading	\$1,670	\$5	\$175	\$30 - \$100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GEM 240 - Gem Identification	\$3,520	\$10	\$325	\$90 to \$300	\$1,500 to \$8,000	\$2,500 to \$8,000	\$240-\$1,500 (US) \$2,000 (Non-US)

Lab Classes - Carlsbad Campus

Class	Tuition	Books	Materials	Sales Tax	CA STRF*	Total Charges
GEM 149L - Pearl Grading Lab	\$350.00	\$45.00	\$7.00	\$4.03	\$0.00	\$406.03
GEM 220L - Colored Stone Grading Lab	\$1,050.00	\$100.00	\$61.00	\$12.48	\$2.50	\$1,225.98
GEM 230L - Diamond Grading Lab	\$1,750.00	\$160.00	\$98.00	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$2,033.00
GEM 240L - Gem Identification Lab	\$1,750.00	\$215.00	\$57.00	\$21.08	\$5.00	\$2,048.08

* California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (CA STRF) fee is applicable to California residents and all students taking lab classes on the Carlsbad campus. [See "California Student Tuition Recovery Fund" on page 39](#)

** Additional costs are estimated and vary greatly if the student completes work in a GIA Student Workroom or offsite.

[See "Additional Enrollment Costs" on page 37](#) for details.

Payment Due Dates

Total charges for lab classes are due at the time of registration. Online course tuition plus applicable STRF or international stone shipping fees are due at the time of registration. Tuition payment plans are available for GEM 220, 230 and 240 with the first installment and a non-refundable \$35 plan administration fee due at the time of registration. Tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to taking a final exam.

Past Due Account Balance

Students who have a past due account balance will have disrupted service. Students will not be able to access courses in Blackboard, may not register into future courses and will not receive their credential until they have settled the payment(s) owed. Those who fail to pay plan installments on time will be required to pay the balance in full or be withdrawn.

Additional Enrollment Costs

Optional Printed Textbooks - Online Courses

All gemology course curriculum is accessible online in the Blackboard learning management system. Students can access and download PDF versions of textbooks through the end date specified in their enrollment agreement. Printed versions of textbooks are optional and may be purchased through the My GIA Education Portal any time after registration.

Proctoring Fees - GEM 220, GEM 230, GEM 240

These exams must be taken in a GIA Student Workroom (no charge) or in the presence of an approved proctor. Students are responsible for finding an acceptable proctor and paying proctor fees which typically range from \$15 per to \$150 per hour. The 20-stone exam in GEM 240 has a six-hour time limit and a maximum of 10 attempts; other exams have a two-hour time limit and a maximum of 3 attempts.

Student Workroom Fees - GEM 240

Students have the option to complete all practical work in a fully-equipped GIA Student Workroom (\$100 per day + travel and expenses). While some students take 15 to 80 days in the workroom to complete their assignments, most complete within 20-30 days in the workroom.

Equipment and Stone Shipping Costs - GEM 240

Students who live in the US, or in a country where GIA is able to ship stones, may complete practical work in their home or office instead of using a Student Workroom. For domestic students, GIA pays for all initial outgoing shipments and students are responsible for return shipments. Domestic students pay on average \$30 per shipment. International students pay a one-time, non-refundable flat rate of \$2,000 to GIA for initial outgoing and return shipping costs. Students are responsible for all costs for reshipping stone sets that have already been sent.

Students must also have access to the required gemological equipment listed on [page 30](#). Equipment may be purchased in the marketplace or through the GIA Store at <https://store.GIA.edu/collections/gem-identification> based on availability. The estimated cost to purchase equipment is \$2,500-\$8,000 excluding shipping, handling and tax. This estimate includes \$6,500 for a professional microscope, however there are lower cost microscopes available in the marketplace.

Additional Fees

Additional, non-refundable, fees may include:

- Living expenses such as housing, food, medical, insurance, transportation, and entertainment
- Wire payment transfer fees
- Fees for optional books and materials, shipping, handling, and applicable taxes
- Fees for any lost or damaged equipment, precious metals and stones
- Fees for replacement of any required books, tools and materials
- \$50 half-day or \$100 full day use of Student Workroom
- \$35 payment plan administration fee
- \$15 late fee (payment plans)
- \$15 fee for non-sufficient funds or returned checks
- \$15 ID badge replacement fee
- \$10 student locker key replacement fee
- \$10 parking permit replacement fee
- \$10 official transcript fee
- \$70 diploma replacement fee (excludes expedited shipping)
- \$65 certificate replacement fee (excludes expedited shipping)

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

GIA is pleased to offer financial assistance options to those who qualify including vocational rehab benefits and institutional scholarships. Students may also find outside aid such as private scholarships and loans. Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education-financial-aid or contact us at +1 800 421 7250 ext 4005, financialaid@gia.edu.

Vocational Rehabilitation Education Benefits

Vocational rehabilitation assistance programs are administered by the Veterans Administration (Veteran Readiness and Employment or VR&E), individual state agencies or private agencies. Depending on the authorization from the student's VA counselor, GIA online courses or lab classes may qualify for use of Vet Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits. For more information, contact financialaid@gia.edu or visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education-vocational-rehabilitation-enrollment-procedure

Scholarships

GIA offers many scholarship opportunities to eligible students. Opportunity scholarships are available year-round. Students may be required to complete a FAFSA application to determine financial need. Merit-based scholarships are competitive and based on the achievements of the application. Students may apply for merit-based scholarships during a specified application period.

Students awarded scholarships receive an award letter that contains the amount as well as any restrictions for use policies.

Visit www.GIA.edu/scholarships for available scholarships, eligibility, how to apply, and required documents.

California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)

The State of California established the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by a student in an educational program at a qualifying institution, who is or was a California resident while enrolled, or was enrolled in a residency program, if the student enrolled in the institution, prepaid tuition, and suffered an economic loss. Unless relieved of the obligation to do so, you must pay the state-imposed assessment for the STRF, or it must be paid on your behalf, if you are a student in an educational program, who is a California resident, or are enrolled in a residency program, and prepay all or part of your tuition.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and you are not required to pay the STRF assessment, if you are not a California resident, or are not enrolled in a residency program.

It is important that you keep copies of your enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, or any other information that documents the amount paid to the school. Questions regarding the STRF may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education: physical address: 1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 225, Sacramento, CA 95834; mailing address: P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818; www.bppe.ca.gov; phone +1 916 574 8900 or +1 888 370 7589; fax +1 916 263 1897.

To be eligible for STRF, you must be a California resident or enrolled in a residency program, prepaid tuition, paid or deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

1. The institution, a location of the institution or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and you did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the Bureau or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the Bureau.
2. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution within the 120-day period before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, or were enrolled in an educational program within the 120-day period before the program was discontinued.
3. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution more than 120 days before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, in an educational program offered by the institution as to which the Bureau determined there was a significant decline in the quality or value of the program more than 120 days before closure.
4. The institution has been ordered to pay a refund by the Bureau but has failed to do so.
5. The institution has failed to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federal student loan program as required by law, or has failed to pay or reimburse

proceeds received by the institution in excess of tuition and other costs.

6. You have been awarded restitution, a refund or other monetary award by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of this chapter by an institution or representative of an institution, but have been unable to collect the award from the institution.
7. You sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of your student loans and have an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans.

To qualify for STRF reimbursement, the application must be received within four (4) years from the date of the action or event that made the student eligible for recovery from STRF.

A student whose loan is revived by a loan holder or debt collector after a period of non-collection may, at any time, file a written application for recovery from STRF for the debt that would have otherwise been eligible for recovery. If it has been more than four (4) years since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original four (4) year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number.

Each qualifying institution shall collect an assessment of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or is enrolled in a residency program. For institutional charges of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less, the assessment is zero dollars (\$0.00).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 94803, 94877 and 94923, Education Code. Reference: Section 94923, 94924 and 94925, Education Code.

Definitions:

(a) "California resident" means a person who resides in California at the time the enrollment agreement is signed or a person who receives lessons at a California mailing address from qualifying institution offering distance education.

(b) "Closed institution" means an institution at which a closure has occurred.

(c) "Economic loss" means pecuniary loss, as defined in section 94923 of the Code. Economic loss also includes any "educational opportunity loss."

(d) "Educational opportunity loss" means a loss of eligibility for third-party payer benefits that is suffered by a California resident or a person enrolled in a California residency program because they are unable to complete an educational program due to the institution's closure or due to the institution losing its eligibility to receive third-party payer benefits and no replacement of that benefit is available from the third-party payer.

(e) "Fund" means the Student Tuition Recovery Fund.

(f) "Prepaid" describes any amount of money that an institution accepts in advance of rendering educational services.

(g) "Qualifying institution" is an approved institution that is subject to the provisions of Article 14, commencing with section 94923 of the Code, including out-of-state institutions registered with the Bureau pursuant to section 94801.5 of the Code.

(h) "Residency Program" means an educational program as defined in section 94837 of the Code at qualifying institution of which some portion of the instruction occurs as direct instruction as defined in section 71715(c).

(i) "STRF" means Student Tuition Recovery Fund.

(j) "Student Tuition Recovery Fund assessment" or "STRF assessment" means a state-imposed charge to fund this chapter that is required to be paid by a California resident student or a student enrolled in a residency program, who pays tuition to an institution.

(k) "Teach-out institution" means the institution offering a teach-out to a former student of an institution that has ceased to operate.

(l) "Third-party payer" means an employer, government program or other entity that pays a student's charges when no separate agreement for the repayment of the charges exists between the third-party payer and the student.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 94803, 94877 and 94923, Education Code. Reference: Sections 94923, 94924 and 94925, Education Code.

Kentucky Student Protection Fund

The Kentucky Student Protection Fund was established to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by eligible Kentucky students as described herein.

Existence of the Kentucky Student Protection Fund.

Pursuant to KRS 165A.450 All licensed schools, resident and nonresident, shall be required to contribute to a student protection fund. The fund shall be used reimburse eligible Kentucky students, to pay off debts, including refunds to students enrolled or on leave of absence by not being enrolled for one (1) academic year or less from the school at the time of the closing, incurred due to the closing of a school, discontinuance of a program, loss of license, or loss of accreditation by a school or program.

Process for Filing a Claim Against the Student Protection Fund.

To file a claim against the Kentucky Student Protection Fund, each person filing must submit a signed and completed Form for Claims Against the Student Protection Fund, Form PE-38, 2017 and provide the requested information to the following address: Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education, 500 Mero Street, 4th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. The form can be found on the website at <https://kcpe.ky.gov>

Cancellation, Withdrawal and Refund Policies

GIA's cancellation, withdrawal and refund policies for GIA's Carlsbad campus are explained in detail in this section and in your enrollment agreement. Contact admissions at admissions@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4001 or +1 800 421 7250 ext 4001.

Cancellation of Enrollment

Students enrolled in online courses, where instruction is not in real time, have the right to cancel the agreement and receive a full refund before the first lesson and materials are received. Students enrolled in lab classes have the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a full refund of charges paid through attendance at the first class session.

Students must submit their cancellation notice in writing using the *Cancellation and Withdrawal Form* on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> or by email to an admissions representative at admissions@gia.edu. Cancellation is effective on the date the written notice is sent.

A student's registration/enrollment will be cancelled by the school with a full refund of institutional charges for failure to i) sign the enrollment agreement, ii) start the course or class or iii) make a required payment due at the time of registration prior to the start date.

Withdrawal of Enrollment

Students may withdraw from a course or class of enrollment any time after the cancellation period and prior to taking a final examination. Students must submit their withdrawal notice in writing by using the *Cancellation and Withdrawal Form* on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>, by email to an admissions representative at admissions@gia.edu (online courses) or the dean of students at deanstudents@gia.edu (lab classes). Withdrawal is effective on the date the written notice is sent.

A student will be administratively withdrawn if they fail to return from a leave of absence, do not maintain satisfactory academic progress, or are otherwise dismissed due to lack of attendance or violation of a GIA policy. A grade of SWD is recorded on the student's academic record and any refund is calculated according to GIA's refund policy.

Refund Policy

Students enrolled in online courses, where instruction is not in real time, receive a full refund, 100% of the amount paid for institutional charges, before the first lesson and materials are received. Students who have submitted 60% or less of the required online assignments receive a pro-rata tuition refund. Students who have submitted more than 60% of the required online assignments are not eligible for a refund.

GIA utilizes an alternative method of calculating lab class tuition refunds in accordance with California Education Code §94921. Students enrolled in lab classes receive a full refund, 100% of the amount paid for institutional charges, if notice of cancellation is made through attendance at the first class session. Students who have completed 60% or less of the period of attendance receive a pro-rata tuition refund. Students who have completed more than 60% of the period of attendance are not eligible for a refund.

GIA does not collect or retain a deposit or application fee. The CA STRF assessment fee is non-refundable in the case of withdrawal. The International Stone Set Shipping fee of \$2,000 is non-refundable once stones have been shipped.

Student workroom cancellations must be made at least 24 hours prior to the reserved date to receive a full refund. For cancellations made with less than 24-hour notice, students will be charged for that day and any reservation for additional days will be canceled.

Books and materials that are used or not returned in salable condition are nonrefundable. Students who choose to purchase optional books, materials and equipment through the GIA store are subject to the return and exchange policy for the GIA Store. <https://store.gia.edu/pages/gia-return-and-exchange-policy>

GIA's online courses and lab classes are not eligible for federal financial aid. Students who obtain a loan to pay for an educational program have the responsibility to repay the full borrowed amount of the loan, plus interest, less the amount of any refund returned to the lender. Scholarship recipients are subject to the refund policy described in their acceptance letter.

Any credit balance on a student's account after any unearned aid and scholarship funds have been returned, will be refunded within 30 days of the date GIA received the notice of cancellation or withdrawal, or the last date of attendance, whichever is later.

Tuition Refund Chart - Online Courses

Assignments Submitted	Tuition Refund
Before submitting your first course assignment	100%
Submitted up to 60% of the course assignments	Pro-rata %
Submitted more than 60% of the course assignments or exceeded the course completion time	No refund

Pro-Rata Tuition Calculation

GIA uses the number of course assignments submitted for grading to calculate the pro-rata tuition amount owed as follows.

- Submitted Assignments %** = Assignments submitted divided by the total number of assignments
- Pro-Rata Tuition** = Total tuition x percent of submitted assignments

Refund Calculation Example

A student withdraws from an online course with 20 assignments and a tuition of \$2,000 and \$5.00 (CA STRF fee). The student is paid in full.

Amount Retained by GIA

Submitted Assignments % = $4 / 20 = 0.20$
 Pro-Rata Tuition Amount = $\$2,000 \times 0.20 = \400.00
 CA STRF Fee (non-refundable) = \$5.00
 $\$400.00 + \$5.00 = \$405.00$

Refund Amount

\$2,005.00 (paid by student)
 - \$405.00 (retained by GIA) = \$1,600.00

Tuition Refund Chart - Lab Classes

Last Day of Attendance	Tuition Refund
Before the end of the first class session	100%
On or before 60% of the scheduled instructional hours	Pro-rata %
After 60% of the scheduled instructional hours	No refund

Pro-Rata Tuition Calculation

GIA uses the student's last day of attendance to calculate the pro-rata tuition amount owed as follows.

- Scheduled Instructional Hours %** = Total program hours divided by the scheduled instructional hours through the student's last day of attendance
- Pro-Rata Tuition** = Total tuition x percent of scheduled instructional hours

Refund Calculation Example

A student withdraws from a 35 clock-hour lab class. There were 14 scheduled instruction hours through the student's last day of attendance. Total charges include \$1,000.00 (tuition), \$225.98 (books, materials, sales tax) and \$2.50 (CA STRF fee). The student has paid in full and retained all books and materials..

Amount Retained by GIA

Scheduled Instructional Hours % = $14 / 35 = 0.40$
 Pro-Rata Tuition Amount = $\$1,000 \times 0.40 = \400.00
 Books, Materials and Sales Tax = \$225.98
 CA STRF Fee (non-refundable) = \$2.50
 $\$400.00 + \$225.98 + \$2.50 = \628.48

Refund Amount

\$1,228.48 (paid by student)
 - \$628.48 (retained by GIA) = \$600.00

Definitions

These terms have the following meanings as applied within GIA's cancellation, withdrawal and refund policies:

- **Cancellation.** Student's enrollment is terminated through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later.
- **Cancellation or Withdrawal Date.** The date the student's written notice of cancellation or withdrawal was sent or is administratively withdrawn according to policy.
- **Enrollment Agreement.** A written contract between a student and institution concerning an educational program.
- **Enrollment.** Execution of an enrollment agreement; enrollment is effective on the date it is signed by both the student and the GIA authorized representative.
- **First Class Day.** First day the student is scheduled to attend a class session.
- **First Class Session.** First part of a class day that the institute conducts instruction in a particular subject. For lab classes, the first class session is before the scheduled lunch break.
- **Institutional Charges.** All charges for tuition, required books and materials, CA STRF fee and other educationally-related expenses assessed by the institution
- **Instructional Hours:** The hours in which clock hours are scheduled.
- **Last Day of Attendance.** The last day the student attended class as determined by GIA's attendance records.
- **Period of Attendance.** The entire educational program if measured in clock hours.
- **Withdrawal.** When a student's enrollment is terminated after the cancellation period but prior to taking a final examination (either the student notifies GIA of intent to withdraw, ceases attendance or is dismissed due to a violation of GIA policy).

Student Services

Our student services staff, advisors and librarians provide a variety of services and resources to help ensure your success as a student and graduate of GIA.

Housing and Transportation

GIA does not have dormitory facilities. There are many rental and hotel opportunities within close proximity of the campus for students coming for lab classes or to use the Student Workroom. Start your search about 45 days before your arrival and be sure to use a reputable third-party provider.

It is important that you thoroughly research your options before taking residence. If renting a room or sharing an apartment, your due diligence should include interviewing the renter and any occupants as well as doing an Internet search of the address and of any individuals living in the home.

Current housing costs around Carlsbad campus can range from \$1,600 to \$2,500 per month or more for apartments. Hotel stays can average \$2,100 per month or \$80 to \$350 per night excluding taxes and other fees.

GIA's campus has parking for more than 1,000 vehicles, electric car charging stations, bike racks and access to public transportation. Public transportation to the Carlsbad campus is limited and although bicycles are an alternative, a car is recommended. Visit <https://www.sdmts.com/transit-services> for more information on public transportation.

Contact student services at +1 800 421 7250 ext 7304, +1 760 603 4000 ext 7304 or studentservices@gia.edu for inquiries or assistance.

Food and Beverage

Students have several choices for meals, snacks and beverages on campus or from a variety of nearby off-campus locations.

GIA's cafe is open from 7 am to 2 pm for breakfast and lunch. Students can order onsite or online for pick-up at the cafe. Refrigerators and microwaves are available for students who prefer to bring their own food. Ample seating is available in the cafe and student lobby, outdoor seating is also available. Self-service vending on campus offer snacks, small lunch items and various bottled drinks options.

Health Care and Insurance

GIA does not provide health insurance for students. All students are strongly urged to maintain medical insurance coverage. Any medical needs, services and expenses are the student's personal responsibility.

Contact student services at +1 800 421 7250 ext 7304, +1 760 603 4000 ext 7304 or studentservices@gia.edu for information about companies that provide medical insurance or to help you locate medical professionals in the area.

TELUS Health Student Support

Through TELUS Health, GIA provides students with immediate and/or ongoing confidential, 24-hour multi-lingual support for any school, health, or general life concern at no cost. You can call or chat with a counselor directly from your phone, mobile device or computer.

Phone: +1 866 743 7732

Website: <https://myssp.app/us/home>

TELUS App:



Disability Services and Accommodation

Our dean's office provides support services, resources and accommodations for students with verified disabilities. Our belief is that disability is not a limitation, but rather an indication of perseverance, strength and determination in accomplishing all life endeavors. Our intention is to promote access, equity and inclusion; to instill a true sense of belonging at GIA for students with disabilities.

GIA is committed to ensuring equal access to its programs and activities for qualified individuals with disabilities and will make efforts to accommodate those with special requirements or needs by granting reasonable accommodations where appropriate. See "[Academic Progress Policies](#)" on page 52 for the details and procedures for requesting accommodation.

Education Advising and Tutoring

GIA's education advisor is available to meet with students who wish to discuss their academic progress and develop strategies to help remove any barrier to their success. The education advisor hosts a Live Information Session every month on Zoom introducing Colored Stones (Gem 220) and Diamonds and Diamond Grading (Gem 230). The sessions cover topics such as course duration, quizzes and final exam instructions, and proctoring. The education advisor also reaches out to students throughout the course updating their progress.

GIA's tutoring program is designed to foster student-driven success, promote independent learning, and provide academic support through an encouraging, engaging, and constructive environment. The education advisor or tutor provides one-on-one support to students who are seeking additional academic help in written coursework outside of school hours. Outside of specific course material support, the program is focused on helping students learn how to be stronger students, teaching participants how to efficiently take notes, prepare for assessments, and become better test takers.

For information, or to schedule an appointment, contact us at edadvising@gia.edu or call +1 800 421 7250 ext 4382 or +1 760 603 4000 ext 4382.

International Student Advising

GIA's international student advisor provides specialized support to international lab class students prepare for and adjust to living and studying in the U.S. The international student advisor is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time at +1 760 603 4001 or by email at intladvisor@gia.edu

Campus Connect

GIA hosts *Campus Connect* for lab students where they can connect with key departments and staff while they are onsite. Admissions, career services, online course faculty, education advising, library, GIA store, gems & gemology and the alumni collective are available to meet with students, explain available resources and answer questions.

Computer and Internet Access

The campus has wireless Internet access available at no charge. The library has a computer lab available for student use during operating hours on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Career Services

As a GIA student or graduate, you enjoy a professional affiliation with GIA. Career services advisors offer individualized support for students and graduates in all stages of their careers. to help them develop a personal strategy according to their educational and career goals.

The career services department provides additional resources and hosted events to help start or advance your career such as the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center, Career Fair - Presented by GIA, and the Job Seekers Handbook. Information on career advising and other services is detailed in the sections below.

For questions, information, or to schedule an appointment, contact us at careerservices@gia.edu or call +1 800 421 7250 ext 4450 or +1 760 603 4000 ext 4450.

Career Advising

Career services advisors offer one-on-one appointments to provide guidance and assistance on topics such as:

Education and career goals. Advisors can help you identify possible careers paths and the education and experience required to meet your goals. They'll help you consider your prior education and experience, interests, strengths, and transferable skills.

Resume and cover letter. Advisors can help you prepare your resume and cover letter, providing tips on how to best highlight your strengths, experience and education so you stand out.

Interview preparation. Advisors provide guidance on how to research and prepare for an interview, consider the questions that may be asked and how you would answer them, and how to conduct yourself during the meeting. Students can also practice interviewing with mock interviews available on the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center.

Job search. Advisors provide guidance and resources to conduct your job search using various job sites and platforms, LinkedIn and the GIA's Gem & Jewelry Career Center. You will need to meet the legal requirements of working in any prospective employer's country.

Advisors also offer "lunch and learns" on various career-focused topics throughout the year. Lab class students may bring and eat their lunch during sessions.

Job Seeker's Handbook

The Job Seeker's Handbook is a guide to starting your job search in the gem and jewelry industry. It includes sample resumes and cover letters, tips on job searches, interviewing and more. We encourage you to use it as you begin your professional journey. Download or view the handbook at www.GIA.edu/gem-careers

GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center

The GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center is a premier career platform and online job board exclusively for the gem and jewelry industry. Employers from every sector of the jewelry industry list opportunities with us, including retailers, wholesalers, design houses, auctioneers, and many others.

As a job seeker, you will be able to customize your job search and create a full-featured profile that will help you market yourself to employers. You can also access tools to help you prepare for interviews. There is no charge to use this service. You can access the career center on our website or download the App.

Website: www.GIA.edu/gem-job
Simplicity App:



Career Fair – Presented by GIA

GIA hosts annual Career Fairs in Carlsbad, London and New York. As the jewelry industry's largest recruiting event, Career Fair attracts the industry's top employers including retailers, manufacturers, laboratories, and wholesalers.

Whether you're just starting out or looking for a career change, Career Fair gives you the opportunity to meet with recruiters, collect job leads, and network. Additionally, industry members offer one-on-one coaching sessions for students and graduates. For the latest information, visit www.GIA.edu/career-fair

Guest Speaker Series

GIA's Carlsbad campus is pleased to offer the Guest Speaker Series to inspire and enhance your educational life on campus. Each month, practicing professionals share their expertise on subjects such as diamond and gemstone treatments, jewelry manufacturing and design, field gemology, and more. The series, free to both students and alumni, exposes you to different career paths and provides perspective on how skills, knowledge, abilities apply to the workplace. The series is live-streamed and posted on social media.

Library and Learning Resources

Library and Information Center

The Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center is the largest library of its kind housing a growing collection of over 65,000 books, 1,000 periodical titles in various languages, and 2,000 videos and other media. The collections cover topics on gemstones, minerals, lapidary, geology, mineralogy, jewelry manufacturing and history and are searchable in the Library's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) via the library's section of the GIA website www.GIA.edu/library

Lending library. Students on campus using the student workroom or taking lab classes may check-out print materials while they are on campus. The lending library consists of over 16,000 volumes, 124 current subscriptions and approximately 2,000 videos.

Archives. The Library's archives and rare book collection has works dating back to 1496. Print materials in the archives are accessible by appointment only. Works no longer under copyright (pre-1926) are being digitized with over 1,000 titles freely available on Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/gialibrary>.

eBooks. Students and alumni may access the contemporary e-book collection on the Libby app at <https://libbyapp.com>. Contact us at library@gia.edu for a username and password.

Website. The library section of the GIA website offers additional resources, from recommended book lists to listings of gemstone pricing guides and appraisal associations. www.GIA.edu/library

Reference service. The library is the first point of reference for gem and jewelry professionals. Whether in person or by phone or email, librarians answer questions from scientists, jewelers, gemologists, students, researchers, authors and the media from around the world. They provide quick reference information on topics including treatments, laboratory-grown gems, business management, jewelry history and more.

Hours and contact. The Library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. Contact us at library@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4046 or +1 800 421 7250 ext 4046.

GIA Museum Collection

GIA's Carlsbad campus is home to the GIA Museum, which houses an extraordinary collection of gems, gem minerals, jewelry, objets d'art, and historical cutting equipment to enhance the student learning experience. Displays throughout campus complement in-class stone sets and allow gemology students to observe additional specimens of stones and jewelry.

Education Stone Sets

Our education stone sets are a significant learning resource used by students to gain hands-on, practical experience in diamond grading, gem identification, and colored stone grading. Each series of stone sets is specifically integrated with the curriculum at the appropriate learning point. Each stone is carefully selected to ensure students are exposed to a wide variety of natural, lab-grown, and treated gem species, varieties, and qualities they might encounter once employed in the trade.

Blackboard Learning Management System

Students have 24/7 online access to the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS). Gemology students access their curriculum in a media-rich online format with embedded videos and animations to supplement learning, as well as an online glossary and links to additional learning resources such as additional videos, supplemental reading, PDF charts, and references. For all On Campus students, the LMS provides access to the GIA Library and Museum's digital resources, including eBooks, audio books and videos, digital periodicals, the digitized rare book collection, the library lecture schedule, virtual museum exhibits, and the Gübelin Gem Project (a repository of data on over 400 gemstones).

GIA Alumni Collective™

The GIA Alumni Collective is here to provide students and graduates with diverse opportunities, insights, and connections that fuel their development, progress, and passion at every point of their career. Contact us at alumni@gia.edu

Membership. After successfully completing a GIA course or program, graduates become part of our alumni community, the GIA Alumni Collective™, an elite global network with over 155,000 members across 55 chapters worldwide. The GIA Alumni Collective connects graduates to an open, inspirational, and passionate community that aims to help graduates cultivate a lifetime of success.

The online community. GIA alumni are key influencers throughout the gem and jewelry industry. Our GIA Alumni Collective online community allows GIA graduates to communicate with like-minded gem and jewelry professionals and display their credentials in our Alumni Directory. Not only can GIA graduates view and participate in virtual and in-person events in their local areas, they can go beyond their borders and network with alumni from around the world. Register for the community at <https://collective.GIA.edu>.

Global chapters. GIA's global chapters span the globe from Manhattan to Mumbai. As a member of the GIA Alumni Collective, you have the opportunity to participate in local meetings and events that further your professional development and connect you to your gem and jewelry community. Visit [Global Alumni Chapters \(gia.edu\)](https://gia.edu) to explore or join a local chapter.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic policies and procedures help ensure the quality of every student's academic experience, support the investment our graduates make in their education, and help to preserve the integrity of GIA's diplomas and certificates.

Lab Class Attendance Policy

The curriculum is intense; students are strongly encouraged not to miss any class time. Classes begin promptly at the scheduled start time. A student may not leave the classroom without advising the instructor except during scheduled breaks.

Every morning and at each break, attendance is taken and recorded in full hour increments. A student who misses any part of a scheduled class hour will be marked for a full hour missed. For example, if a student arrives 10 minutes late to class, they are marked for one hour missed.

Maximum Allowable Missed Hours

Students who miss any portion of the first day of class, or otherwise exceed the maximum allowable absence listed below are dismissed.

Class	Class Hours	Maximum Missed Hours
Diamond Grading Lab Gem Identification Lab	35	3 hours
Colored Stone Grading Lab	21	2 hours
Pearl Grading Lab	7	0 hours

Make-Up Hours

Due to the short duration of lab classes, students are advised to register for a class when they can be present for the entire duration (no known conflicts). Make-up hours are not available.

Make-Up Work

Online courses are self-paced and lab classes require strict attendance; there is no provision to make-up work. Students have ample time to make-up missed lab work during regularly scheduled hours.

Clock Hours

"Clock hours" refer to number of scheduled instructional hours for each course, class or program. One clock hour equals a minimum of 50 instructional minutes within a 60-minute time period. The definition of a clock hour is separate from, and does not apply to, GIA's attendance policy.

Classroom Policies

Students enrolled in lab classes or using a student workroom are required to adhere to the following policies.

- Use of mobile phones and other devices in class is strictly prohibited. These devices must be set on silent and placed in a designated location. Devices may be used if the student leaves the classroom.
- Eating is not permitted in classrooms. Beverages in closed containers are allowed.
- Non-GIA issued tools are not allowed in class. Exceptions may be granted for safety or ergonomic considerations if approved through the dean's office. GIA is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal tools.
- Keycards, blank or completed worksheets, quizzes and exams may not be taken out of the classroom.
- Projects and other materials may not be taken out of the classroom without the instructor's permission.
- Students must work individually unless the instructor directs otherwise.

Class-specific policies are disclosed and reviewed with students in class.

Testing Policy

Testing measures a student's comprehension of the curriculum and mastery of skills. The following rules apply to all tests. The term "test" refers to any quiz, test or exam.

- Lab students are strongly advised not to miss a scheduled test. Those not taken on the scheduled date and time receive a score of zero.
- Tests in progress may be declared null and void, and rescheduled, if the testing area must be evacuated for any reason or if internet connectivity is lost.
- Tests must be completed within the specified time limit.
 - Students are graded on the work submitted within the allotted time.
 - Tests not submitted within the allotted time receive a score zero.
- All test submissions are final.
- Final exams are closed-book with these exceptions:
 - GEM 110, GEM 120, GEM 130, GEM 149 are open-book.
 - Lab manuals are permitted during practical tests.
- Practical exams must remain in the proctor's control at all times.
- Reviews of specific questions are not provided; a general review of the areas missed are provided by the instructor upon request.
- Non-native English-speaking students may use a printed translation dictionary only after it is examined by the instructor/proctor; electronic translators may not be used.
- Unauthorized electronic devices may not be used during testing.
 - Mobile devices must be turned off and placed in a designated location.
 - Cameras and other recording devices are not allowed.
 - Standard, non-programmable calculators are allowed.
 - In some cases, GIA may provide electronic devices; if so, students must follow instructor/proctor's directions.

Proctored Exam Requirements

GEM 220, GEM 230, GEM 240 final exams must be taken in a GIA Student Workroom or in the presence of an approved local proctor. A proctor is someone who monitors a student during an exam. Contact us at records@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312, or +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 with any questions.

GIA Student Workroom. There is no charge to take an exam in a GIA Student Workroom. See "Student Workrooms" on page 16

Local Proctor. Students are responsible for finding a local proctor and paying any proctoring fees. Proctors must be approved; approval is at GIA's discretion and may be revoked at any time. The proctor must be able to visually and audibly monitor the student during the full length of the exam. Online exams require the use of a computer with wired Internet access; no wireless Internet connection.

Acceptable Proctors

Many learning and testing centers offer proctoring services. Otherwise, an acceptable proctor is a professional outside of the Gem & Jewelry industry that has no real or perceived conflict of interest with the student. Examples include, but not limited to, a *librarian, instructor, teacher, professor, college administrator, attorney, notary of the public, certified public accountant, or military officer.*

Relatives, friends, partners, roommates, coworkers, supervisors and anyone employed in the Gem & Jewelry Industry are not eligible to proctor a GIA exam.

Requesting Your Exam

Students must notify GIA when they are ready to take a proctored exam using the request form on the MY GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> or by scheduling time in a GIA Student Workroom. All tuition and fees must be paid in full and any stone sets loaned to the student for practical assignments must be returned prior to taking the exam.

Students must provide the requested proctor information and any supporting documentation for approval. Once approved and scheduled the exam is valid for 30-days not to exceed the course end date.

We recommend students be prepared for and schedule their first exam attempt no later than *30 days before the end date* to allow sufficient time for processing exam requests, complete any allowable retakes, ship practical exams, and complete any required remedial work.

- Exam requests take 5 business days to process, excluding holidays.
- Once approved, practical exams are sent with 2-day shipping for domestic and 3 to 7-day shipping for most international locations.

Academic Integrity Policy

GIA highly values academic integrity, meaning an honest representation of one's own work. While we also value the benefit of collaborative education where students are able to work with and learn from one another, there is a line between collaboration and academic dishonesty. Students who violate this policy are subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following:

Cheating. Copying another student's work or using unauthorized aids during an examination, test or quiz or to complete a project, assignment or worksheet. Examples of unauthorized aids include written notes, mobile phone or other device, AI, the Internet, and homework/test/quiz sharing or exchange sites.

Plagiarism. Copying work or ideas, including but not limited to the use of electronic aids, and misrepresenting them as one's own.

Falsification. Making up fictitious information or altering records for the purpose of misrepresentation.

Facilitation. Helping another student to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify information. Some examples include:

- knowingly allowing another student to copy your work;
- sharing or exchanging quiz, test, exam or assignment questions and/or answers with another student, on a site that may be searched by others, or referring another student to those sites;
- copying or reproducing keycards or quiz, test, exam or assignment questions by any means;
- unauthorized possession of practical assignments or projects.

The failure of a student to report known or suspected cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty is also considered a violation of this policy.

Grading System

GIA uses a Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading system. Final grades are assigned and recorded in the student's permanent academic record as follows.

Grade	Definition
P (Pass)	75% and higher and met the graduation requirements
NP (No Pass)	74% or less and failure to meet the graduation requirements
SWD (Student Withdrawal)	Student was withdrawn from their program of enrollment after the cancellation period.
INC (Incomplete)	This is a temporary grade that is converted to P, NP or SWD based on the definition of these grades. Students who fail to complete their coursework within the agreed-upon time receive a final grade of NP.

Grading Policy

Final grades are awarded to each student, in each course or class, within two business days of the end date.

Online assignments, quizzes and exams are graded immediately upon submission. Practical assignments and exams are typically graded within seven business days. Lab class exam results are available prior to the end of class. Exams taken in a GIA Student Workroom are graded upon submission. Students will be notified of processing delays. Students can access grades and monitor their progress in the Blackboard LMS at <https://blackboard.gia.edu>

Student Identity Verification

GIA establishes that the student who registers in a program is the same who participates in and completes the program by one or more of the following methods:

- Collecting a copy of a government-issued photo ID or passport
- Using a secure login and password to complete written assignments, quizzes and exams
- Verifying the ID of a student who takes a proctored exam
- Taking and recording lab class attendance

Academic Progress Policies

GIA monitors each student's academic progress to ensure they are moving toward successful completion of their course or class.

Online Courses

Online courses are self-paced. Students have access to course materials on the class start date and must successfully complete all assignments and the final exam within the maximum timeframe allowed. Students receive academic progress reports at scheduled benchmarks during the course. Students receive academic progress reports at scheduled benchmarks during the course. At any time, students may monitor their progress in the Blackboard LMS at <https://blackboard.gia.edu> or request a conference with their instructor.

Course Progress. Students must pass each lesson's questionnaire with a score 75% or higher to progress to the next questionnaire. Students enrolled in GEM 240 must meet specific grading criteria for each practical assignment as specified in the course syllabus.

Maximum Timeframe. Each online course has a maximum completion timeframe listed in the course descriptions. The start and end dates of the course are specified in the student's enrollment agreement. Maximum timeframe is strictly enforced; there are no extensions. See "[Online Course Descriptions](#)" on page 28

A student who is unable to progress, and has not yet taken a final exam, may withdraw and retake the course at a time that better suits their schedule. Students with proper cause and documentation may request a leave of absence to temporarily pause and resume their studies at a later date. See "[Leave of Absence Policy](#)" on page 52

Students who do not successfully complete all course requirements including all written and practical assignments and passing the final exam within the maximum timeframe receive a final grade of No Pass (NP). Students who do not pass may repeat the course at current tuition and fees. See "[Repeat Courses](#)" on page 53

Lab Classes

Lab class students are expected to attend scheduled classroom hours and participate in lectures, discussions, hands-on lab sessions and the final exam in order to successfully progress through the class. Students who exceed the maximum allowable missed hours as described in the Attendance Policy are dismissed. See "[Attendance_Policy](#)" on page 49

Probation

Students who do not comply with the Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior may be placed on Behavioral Probation and notified in writing. Students who do not meet the terms of their probation are dismissed.

Leave of Absence Policy

Students enrolled in an online course may request a leave of absence (LOA) at any time during their studies with proper cause and supporting documentation. Students enrolled in lab classes are not eligible for a leave of absence.

An LOA is approved for a documented family emergency, serious illness or for active military duty. GIA may also approve an LOA for involuntary reasons such as national or state emergency, pandemic, or other extenuating circumstances. Contact the dean's office at deanstudents@gia.edu for additional information.

A leave will be approved if GIA determines that there is a reasonable expectation that the student will return and the request complies with this policy. If approved, an addendum to the student's enrollment agreement is generated and the course end date is extended to reflect the number of days granted for the leave.

Maximum Length. The maximum length of time for an LOA is 365 calendar days. A student may be granted more than one leave, but combined cannot exceed 365 calendar days per course. Students must submit any request to extend an approved LOA in writing to the dean's office prior to the expiration of their original LOA.

Requesting Leave. The LOA request must be submitted in writing to the dean's office in advance. A request form is available on the My Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>. The request must be signed and dated by the student and include the reason for the request. If unforeseen circumstances prevent a student from providing a prior written request, GIA may approve the student's leave and collect the written, signed and dated request at a later date.

Returning from leave. Students access to their online courses is automatically reinstated on the end date of the leave. Students may review/repeat any lessons they completed prior to leave to ensure their success. No additional fees are charged for the leave. Students may return early from a leave by notifying the dean's office.

Active Military Duty. Any student called to active military duty will be promptly readmitted in accordance with the requirements under Title 34 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. The cumulative length of the leave and of all previous absences from the school for service may not exceed five years, except where the obligated period of service exceeds five years or as specified in the federal regulations. Students called to active military duty should contact the dean's office to discuss their individual situation.

Repeat Courses

Students may repeat an online course or lab class to earn a passing grade; current tuition and fees apply at enrollment. After two non-passing attempts (final grade of NP) of an online course, a student must petition for re-enrollment.

The student must submit the Petition for Re-enrollment form and any additional supporting documentation to the Admissions Committee for review. The student is asked to describe the circumstances that prevented them from passing the course and what they will do differently in order to succeed. The decision to allow a student to re-enroll is at GIA's sole discretion based on a consensus belief that the student can be successful.

The director of enrollment services, or their delegate, will notify the student of the committee's decision within 10 business days of the receipt of the petition. If approved, the student may re-enroll into the course from the beginning at current tuition and fees.

Appeal for Re-enrollment

Students who wish to repeat an online course after two unsuccessful attempts, must submit a completed Appeal for Re-enrollment Form to the dean of students. At a minimum, the appeal includes the student's self-assessment of the reasons that prevented them from successfully completing the course and the actions they would take to ensure that they would be able to meet and maintain academic progress going forward.

Appeals are reviewed by the Admissions Committee and the director of enrollment services will notify the student of the decision in writing within 10 business days of the receipt of the appeal. If an appeal is approved, the student may re-enroll and repeat the course from the beginning, paying current tuition and fees. If an appeal is denied, the student is required to wait one year before submitting another appeal. A maximum of three appeals are allowed.

Dismissal Policy

GIA may terminate a student's enrollment for academic, attendance or behavioral reasons at any time. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Violation of Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior or other institutional policies
- Failure to meet academic progress standards
- Failure to abide by the attendance policy
- Cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty
- Offensive, disruptive, threatening, harassing, bullying or insubordinate behavior
- Stealing school property or the personal property of any individual
- Use, possession or sale of alcohol, illegal drugs or controlled substances anywhere on school premises
- Possession of firearms or other weapons on school premises
- Providing false information and/or willfully omitting information on any GIA document or form
- Conducting any activities that harm the name, reputation or property of GIA

Upon dismissal, a final grade of SWD is posted to the student's academic record and any refund is calculated according to GIA's Refund Policy.

Appeal for Readmission

Students who are dismissed must submit a formal appeal in order to be readmitted into any GIA program, course or class. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee readmission, which is at the sole discretion of GIA.

Students must submit the Appeal for Readmission form and any additional supporting documentation to the Admissions Committee for review. The director of enrollment services, or their delegate, will notify the student of the committee's decision within 10 business days of the receipt of the appeal.

If approved, the student is notified of any readmission terms or conditions. Students are required to enroll into the course from the beginning at current tuition and fees.

A student may submit a maximum of three appeals. If a student is dismissed for behavior reasons and the first appeal is denied, subsequent appeals will only be considered following a two-year waiting period.

Graduation Requirements - Online Diplomas

To maintain enrollment, students must continue to meet academic progress, attendance and behavioral standards throughout their course or class. In order to graduate, students must complete the minimum requirements for each course and class listed below. All tuition and fees must be paid in full, and all stones, equipment, and materials must be returned in good condition prior to graduation. Certificates and diplomas are not awarded until all educational and financial obligations are met.

Graduate Gemologist®

The Graduate Gemologist online diploma is awarded when a student completes the requirements for both Graduate Diamonds and Graduate Colored Stones online diplomas.

Graduate Colored Stones

Students must successfully complete all required online courses and lab classes. Students must meet the minimum requirements and pass the final exam within the maximum attempts allowed prior to the course end date. For lab classes, one exam is taken during class and any additional attempts must be completed in a student workroom.

Course / Class	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Attempts Allowed
GEM 120 Colored Stone Essentials		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Colored Stone Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 220 Colored Stones		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Colored Stones Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 220L Colored Stone Grading Lab		
2-Stone Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 240L Gem Identification Lab		
Instrumentation Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 240 Gem Identification		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Practical Assignments	100% completed, passing score on each	—
20-Stone Final Exam	100% score	10*

* **Remedial Work.** After five attempts, students are required to complete remedial work before the next exam attempt. Remedial work may be shipped to the student or completed in a student workroom. Students are responsible for shipping fees, customs and taxes or the standard rate for student workroom use.

Graduate Diamonds

Students must successfully complete all required online courses and lab classes. Students must meet the minimum requirements and pass the final exam within the maximum attempts allowed prior to the course end date. For lab classes, one exam is taken during class and any additional attempts must be completed in a student workroom.

Course / Class	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Attempts Allowed
GEM 120 Diamond Essentials		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Diamond Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 230 Diamonds & Diamond Grading		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Diamonds & Diamond Grading Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 230L Diamond Grading Lab		
2-Stone Final Exam	75% score	3

Graduate Pearls

Students must successfully complete all required online courses and lab classes. Students must meet the minimum requirements and pass the final exam within the maximum attempts allowed prior to the course end date. For lab classes, one exam is taken during class and any additional attempts must be completed in a student workroom.

Course / Class	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Attempts Allowed
GEM 149 Pearls		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Pearls Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 149L Pearl Grading Lab		
2-Stone Assessment	75% score	1

Applied Jewelry Professional™

For each required course, students must meet the minimum requirements and pass the final exam within the maximum attempts allowed prior to the course end date.

Course / Class	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Attempts Allowed
GEM 110 Jewelry Essentials		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Jewelry Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 120 Colored Stone Essentials		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Colored Stone Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
GEM 130 Diamond Essentials		
Lessons	100% completed, 75% score on each	—
Diamond Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3

Student Records

The care and protection of applicant, student and graduate data is of utmost importance. GIA's Student Privacy Notice, found at <https://www.gia.edu/student-privacy-notice>, describes the policies and practices regarding our processing, including collection, use, and handling, of personal data. Student records are maintained in accordance with federal, state and accreditation requirements; transcript data is retained permanently.

Contact Information

Students may update their contact information through the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu> or by contacting us at records@gia.edu

Legal Names

A person's legal first, middle and last name as it appears on official governmental documents is required for official student records and will appear on all transcripts, certificates and diplomas. Students may request to not display their middle name on their credential by contacting the student records department.

GIA requires official documentation and written authorization to make changes or corrections to the legal name listed in your student records.

You must submit one item of documentation that shows the current/old name that is in our records, and one item of documentation that shows your new/updated name. The following documentation is acceptable:

- Valid government-issued photo ID
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decree
- Naturalization documents
- Other court-issued document

Preferred Name and Pronouns

GIA recognizes that many students use a first name other than their legal first name to identify themselves. A student's preferred name will be displayed on class rosters, in the learning management system (Blackboard), and in the My GIA Education Portal. Members of the GIA community respect each other by using the personal pronouns individuals identify for themselves. Students may provide a preferred first name and pronouns at the time of admission or anytime thereafter on the My GIA Education Portal.

Letters of Good Standing

Upon request, GIA will issue a letter of good standing that are typically needed by insurance companies or other agencies as evidence of student status. A student is considered to be in good standing if they are not currently on an academic advising or probation status. GIA does not issue letters of recommendation. Contact student records at records@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312 or +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312.

Diplomas and Certificates

Students will receive both a printed and a digital copy of their Online diploma once all graduation requirements are met and the credential has been conferred. Print diplomas are mailed directly to the student's address on record. Students may update their shipping address on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu> or by emailing records@gia.edu. The student will receive a confirmation email once the print diploma has shipped and a second notification with access to their digital diploma or certificate. For online courses, certificates are issued in a digital format only; a hard copy is not issued. Students have the option to purchase a hard copy of the certificate through the vendor.

Students must report in writing if a printed diploma or certificate is damaged in transit or was not received within 10 business days after receiving the shipment confirmation.

A replacement hard copy is provided at no charge if the original is damaged in transit or is not delivered within 15 business days. A photo may be required in the case of damage. In these cases, a replacement is provided at no charge and will be reshipped within 15 business days of receiving the student's written notice. For inquiries, contact us at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Diploma and Certificate Holds

Students will not receive a diploma or certificate until all academic and financial obligations are met.

Reprint Diplomas and Certificates

Reprint diplomas and certificates are \$70 and \$65 respectively. Reprints are issued in the current format and include the reissue date. All reprints bear the signatures of GIA's current school officials. To order a replacement, contact the vendor at <https://parchmentsupport.force.com> or student records at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Graduation Announcements

Graduation announcements are available upon request. Contact us at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Transcripts

Current students may download an unofficial transcript on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu>. Graduates may contact us at records@gia.edu to request a copy of their unofficial transcript. These are provided at no charge.

Current students may order an official transcript from our vendor on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu>. Current students and graduates may order an official transcript directly from our vendor at <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/individual>. There is a \$10 fee for each transcript ordered. Contact us at records@gia.edu for inquiries or further instructions.

Education Verification

Those wanting to confirm a GIA graduate's credentials may check the GIA Alumni Online Directory. The search results will return those graduates who have opted to have their information displayed online. Individuals may also submit a written request to verify a graduate's credentials by submitting the request form on our website located at www.GIA.edu/doc/GIA_Education_Verification-Request.pdf. For information about directory information that may be released,

Academic Credentials Usage Policy

Usage guidelines apply to all current and former students of the Gemological Institute of America, Inc. and its related entities (collectively referred to as GIA).

Usage Guidelines for Academic Credentials

Academic credentials earned at GIA are respected by gem and jewelry professionals around the world. They are the internationally recognized symbol of the highest standard of education in the fields of gemology and jewelry arts.

It is appropriate and customary for recipients of GIA diplomas to signal their achievement by appending the relevant academic designation to the end of their name. It should be noted, however, that GIA alumni are required to abide by specific standards of usage.

Although the following examples do not reference every diploma offered by the Institute, they should help you determine how GIA's Usage Guidelines for Academic Credentials apply to you.

General Usage

You may reproduce and display your GIA diploma, certificate or letter of completion in its entirety. Note that when a credential is advertised, it must be used in association with the recipient's name, and the advertisement must not in any way state or imply an affiliation with or endorsement by GIA.

Only the acknowledgment of a diploma or degree from GIA should be placed on business cards. Individual coursework that is completed but does not result in a diploma is best listed on resumes and curriculum vitae.

Diplomas

The following examples refer to the Graduate Gemologist (GG), Accredited Jewelry Professional or Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®), Gemologist, Jewelry Design & Technology (JDT), and Graduate Jeweler (GJ) diplomas:

- John Doe, GIA Graduate Gemologist, or John Doe, GIA GG
- Jane Doe, GIA Applied Jewelry Professional, or Jane Doe, GIA AJP
- Jane Doe, GIA Jewelry Design & Technology, or Jane Doe, GIA JDT
- John Doe, GIA Graduate Jeweler, or John Doe, GIA GJ
- Jane Doe, GIA GG, GJ

The following examples refer to the Graduate Diamonds, Graduate Colored Stones and Graduate Pearls diplomas:

- Jane Doe, GIA Diamonds Graduate
- John Doe, GIA Colored Stones Graduate
- Jane Doe, GIA Pearls Graduate

The following example refers to the Applied Jewelry Arts (AJA) diploma:

- John Doe, GIA Applied Jewelry Arts, or John Doe, GIA AJA

Employment Citations

Companies may state that they have GIA Graduate Gemologists, Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®), Accredited Jewelry Professionals, Gemologists, Graduate Jewelers, or Jewelry Design & Technology graduates on staff, provided that such statements are accurate and companies agree to cooperate with any verification that may be requested by GIA or others.

Administrative Policies

This section includes standards, policies, and procedures that describe the rights and responsibilities of students.

Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior

GIA's Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior protects the rights of students and employees and ensures a safe, secure and positive learning environment for all students. GIA students are expected to behave in a professional manner and to treat others with dignity and respect at all times. Students are responsible for reading, understanding and following all GIA student policies.

Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Threatening or harassing behavior, including sexual harassment or misconduct
- Acts of retaliation against another student or GIA staff member
- Acts or threats of violence
- Possession of a firearm or other weapon on campus
- Use, sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances or alcohol
- Forgery, fraud or dishonesty
- Disruptive, insubordinate or unlawful behavior
- Academic dishonesty
- Property damage or theft
- Violation of other GIA policies

In addition to the policies published in this catalog, students are expected to adhere to policies and procedures relating to drug and alcohol abuse prevention, workplace and campus violence, discrimination, harassment and misconduct published at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information.

Students who become aware of anything that seems unsafe, improper, or illegal must report it to GIA staff immediately.

Social Media and Networking

GIA embraces the opportunities and information available to students and staff through social media such as networking sites, blogs, wikis, chat rooms and others. However, any online behavior which is brought to the attention of a school official that violates the Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior may be addressed under this policy.

Students are asked to use good judgment as their actions and statements have the ability to adversely affect themselves, others and the school as a whole. Posts on social media may be replicated quickly, be taken out of context, and remain public for an indeterminate amount of time.

Communication between current students and GIA employees on social media may create the appearance of favoritism or conflict of interest. Therefore, staff are subject to GIA's employee social media and networking policies when communicating with students on social networks.

Violations

A designated school official will commence an investigation into allegations of violation of student code of conduct. Behavior relating to sexual harassment or misconduct will be reported to the Title IX coordinator. See "[Title IX Compliance](#)" on page 61. Students are required to cooperate with GIA representatives during an investigation. GIA considers all information collected during an investigation in the decision-making process. To maintain the safety and the integrity of its investigation, GIA reserves the right to suspend a student pending investigation. GIA will make every effort to operate on the fundamental principle of mutual trust and respect among students, faculty, staff and administration.

Sanctions

With sufficient evidence, GIA at its sole discretion may impose one or more sanctions, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Sanctions may include verbal warning, written warning, behavioral probation, or dismissal. In cases involving potential criminal conduct, GIA will determine in its sole discretion whether appropriate law enforcement or other authority must be notified.

Reasonable Accommodation

GIA is committed to ensuring equal access to its programs and activities for qualified individuals, including individuals with disabilities. This includes making reasonable, appropriate and effective modifications in policies, practices, and procedures for qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and applicable state and local laws. GIA does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities seeking to apply to its programs.

Requesting accommodation. Students requesting reasonable accommodation must provide documentation of the reported disability along with the Reasonable Accommodation Request Form to the dean's office. Documentation must be from a professional who is qualified in the testing of the disability. GIA will review the request and inform the student or applicant of its decision in writing.

Confidentiality. All information submitted to or developed by the Institute related to the diagnosis, documentation, or accommodation of a disability is considered confidential. Information is only accessible to and/or shared with GIA employees who have a need to know in order to determine or implement required accommodations.

Providing accommodation. Each circumstance will be considered on an individual basis according to the means, limits and experience of GIA and the request under consideration, at the time of such request. Qualified individuals with disabilities must meet the academic and technical requirements for admission and participation in GIA's education programs and services. Each course requires students to perform particular physical and cognitive tasks. Upon request, GIA is pleased to discuss these tasks with the applicant to evaluate the applicant's potential for success and decision to apply.

Students must continue to meet minimum academic, attendance, and behavioral standards as defined in these policies. If a student requests accommodation after being placed on academic advising or probation or is dismissed, the terms of academic advising, probation or dismissal still stand.

Grievances. GIA's 504 Coordinator monitors and oversees the Institute's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act and related regulations. Students, applicants, instructors, administrators or others who participate in GIA's education programs and activities with questions or concerns related to the application of this policy or complaints about discrimination on the basis of a disability are encouraged to contact the 504 Coordinator.

Kimberly Overlin, 504 Coordinator
504coordinator@gia.edu
 +1 760 603 4093
 The Robert Mouawad Campus
 5345 Armada Drive, Mailstop #15
 Carlsbad, California 92008 USA

Additionally, complaints of discrimination may be made to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR):

U.S. Department of Education
 Office for Civil Rights
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-1100
 Telephone +1 800 421 3481
 Fax +1 202 453 6012; TDD +1 800 877 8339
OCR@ed.gov

Title IX Compliance

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient that receives federal financial assistance. As an educational institution subject to Title IX, GIA has adopted the Title IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Policy and Process. As set forth in detail herein, GIA:

- Does not discriminate on the basis of sex, including in admissions and employment, and is committed to providing an educational and workplace environment that is free from sex-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities, as required by law;
- Is committed to promoting fairness and equity in all aspects of its operations; and
- Values and promotes the equal dignity of all community members and is committed to the pursuit of just resolutions with respect to the rights of all parties involved.

The policy can be accessed by visiting www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information. Inquiries about GIA's Title IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Policy & Process may be referred to GIA's Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator oversees implementation and enforcement of this Policy, which includes primary responsibility for coordinating GIA's efforts related to the intake, investigation, resolution, and implementation of supportive measures to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Title IX Coordinator may be contacted with questions about this Policy, to file a report or Formal Complaint, or to otherwise assist individuals in ensuring equal access to GIA's educational programs or activities in compliance with Title IX.

Kimberly Overlin, Title IX Coordinator
titleixcoordinator@gia.edu
 +1 760 603 4093
 The Robert Mouawad Campus
 5345 Armada Drive, Mailstop #15
 Carlsbad, California 92008 USA

Additionally, complaints of sexual discrimination may be made to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR):

U.S. Department of Education
 Office for Civil Rights
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-1100
 Telephone +1 800 421 3481
 Fax +1 202 453 6012; TDD +1 800 877 8339
OCR@ed.gov

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

GIA insists on an alcohol and drug-free environment and prohibits the unlawful use, sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol on GIA premises, at GIA sponsored events or activities. It is unlawful to sell or furnish alcohol to a person under the age of 21 and a violation of this policy.

Reporting to campus under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substance that impairs one's mental or physical capacity is a violation of this policy and may result in sanctions up to and including dismissal. GIA may also discipline students for off-campus activities that include the illegal use of alcohol or drugs.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, and use of medical or recreational marijuana is not an exception to this policy. Any student using physician-prescribed medication or other medication that may impair performance in the classroom is encouraged to inform his or her instructor.

As a condition of acceptance for admission, students agree to reasonable suspicion (also referred to as "for-cause") drug testing. In the absence of extraordinary circumstances, any student who tests positive, or admits to illegal drug or alcohol use, may be dismissed from school and/or be subject to additional sanctions. Refusal to test or, in the case of urine testing, failure to produce a sample within the allotted time frame after being selected is considered the same as a positive test and may result in dismissal.

Students or any person in the school community who are aware of the use or existence of any such substances at GIA should notify a staff member immediately.

Students who believe they have a chemical dependency or substance abuse problem and who want help can learn about many helpful resources from the dean's office. GIA also offers the My SSP service that connects students with free, confidential emotional health and well-being support conveniently available 24/7 via mobile app, telephone and web. See "TELUS Health Student Support" on page 45

For detailed information on sanctions, federal and state laws and the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use, see complete Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Student Privacy Notice

GIA values the privacy of your personal data. This Student Privacy Notice ("Notice") describes GIA's policies and practices regarding our collection, use and handling of your personal data in connection with your relationship with GIA as an educational services applicant, student, or alumni. For complete disclosure and updates, please refer to the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/student-privacy-notice

If you use GIA websites other than as an educational services applicant, student, or alumni, your use of those other GIA websites and any information that you submit to us through those other GIA websites will be governed by the posted GIA website privacy notice.

For complete disclosure and updates, please refer to the GIA Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice and to the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/student-privacy-notice.

Personal Data Collection, Use and Processing

In connection with your relationship with GIA, GIA collects personal data about you (whether online, in-person, or through other means) from the following sources: directly from you; from our affiliated entities, including our subsidiaries and branch offices; from service providers; from alumni chapters; and automatically as you visit GIA websites.

We use your Personal Data for the purposes described in further detail in the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice#student-privacy-notice, including to facilitate your experience with GIA and provide you with educational services and related products. We may share your Personal Data with our GIA Affiliated Entities at www.GIA.edu/affiliated-entities and others as described in this Notice.

Providing your Personal Data is voluntary. Please note, however, that without your Personal Data, we may be unable to provide you with the educational services and related products you request.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy ("FERPA")

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords eligible students enrolled at a GIA campus located in the United States ("student," or "you") certain rights with respect to their education records. If you are enrolled or enrolling at GIA as part of the GIA Education Corporate Sponsor Program, additional terms and conditions also apply.

Student rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review your education records within 45 days after the day the Gemological Institute of America, Inc. ("GIA," or the "Institute") receives a request from you to access your education records.
2. The right to request the amendment of your education records that you believe is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of your privacy rights under FERPA.
3. The right to provide written consent before GIA discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from your education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to opt-out of the disclosure or release of directory information as further defined and specified in the "Directory Information Definition and Opt-Out" section below.

5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by GIA to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Disclosures that GIA May Make Without Student Consent

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from your education records, without your consent, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.3 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials (as further detailed at www.GIA.edu/ferpa), disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information and disclosures to you, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires GIA to record the disclosure. You have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

Directory Information Definition and Opt-Out

FERPA specifies that directory information includes, without limitation, any information contained in a student's education record(s) that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. As such, directory information can be disclosed or released without your written consent. GIA's directory information includes title, first name, last name, phone number, address (home and mailing), email address, business name, business address, business website, business email address, year in applicable program, status and academic level (e.g., full-time or part-time), total clock hours, location of attendance, fields of study, dates of enrollment, degrees, diplomas, certificates awarded, letters of attendance/completion, expected date of graduation, dates conferred, dates of attendance, participation in GIA-recognized activities, academic honors and awards received (including, without limitation, type and date or term granted), previously attended educational agencies or institutions and any unique identifying number created for the purpose of compiling, releasing, or transmitting directory information.

Complaint Policy and Procedure

Complaint Policy

GIA takes student complaints seriously. GIA reviews all complaints in a timely, fair, and equitable manner. GIA gives all individuals named in a complaint, including students, instructors, or other school employees, the opportunity to respond to the complaint. Students are required to cooperate with all GIA representatives during an investigation in which GIA believes the student(s) may provide relevant information. GIA considers all of the information collected during the investigation in the decision-making process.

Complaint Procedure

Students are encouraged to try to resolve any issues or concerns they may have by first discussing them with the appropriate school official. If the student is unable to reach a resolution, or in cases where informal resolution is not appropriate, the student may submit a formal complaint.

A formal complaint must be submitted to the office of the dean of students in writing at deanstudents@gia.edu. It must contain, at a minimum, the basis of any allegation, all relevant names and dates, and a brief description of the actions forming the basis of the complaint. Copies of available documents, materials, or additional reasonable and credible information that support the complaint should also be included.

Students should raise complaints as soon as possible so that they can be properly addressed. Within 10 business days of receiving the complaint, the dean of students will respond to the student with a written summary of the school's investigation and decision regarding the complaint. If the investigation is not complete at the end of 10 business days, the student will be notified in writing that additional time is needed.

If for any reason a person does not feel comfortable directly reporting a complaint as described above, they may report a concern confidentially through GIA's Concern Reporting system at www.GIAwis.ethicspoint.com

Schools accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) must have a written complaint policy and procedure for the purpose of receiving, responding to, addressing and resolving as appropriate, complaints made by students, faculty, administrators or any other person who has good reason to believe the school is not in compliance with DEAC standards and policies. Where issues or educational services, student services, or tuition are concerned, a student

complainant must have exhausted all efforts to resolve a complaint with the institution before filing a complaint with DEAC.

Complaints may be submitted to DEAC using the complaint form found at www.deac.org/Student-Center/Complaint-Process.aspx. Written complaints will also be accepted by mail or other form of effective delivery to DEAC, provided they include (1) the complainant's name and contact information (2) the basis of any allegation of noncompliance with DEAC standards and procedures; (3) all relevant names and dates and a brief description of the actions forming the basis of the complaint; (4) copies of any available documents or materials that support the allegations; and (5) a release authorizing DEAC to forward a copy of the complaint, including identification of the complainant(s) to the institution. Written complaints may be submitted to:

Executive Director, DEAC
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 808
Washington, DC 20036 USA
ATTN: Complaints

A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (CA BPPE) by calling +1 888 370 7589 toll free, or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the Bureau's website at <https://bppe.ca.gov>. Students may utilize GIA's internal complaint process, but are not required to exhaust internal processes prior to contacting the CA BPPE. Students may submit a concern at any time to the BPPE or other oversight agency.

Residents of Alabama can submit a complaint by contacting the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, PO Box 302130, Montgomery, AL 36130-2130 USA, <https://psl.asc.edu/External/Complaints.aspx>

Residents of the state of Georgia who wish to file a complaint should make every attempt to achieve a fair and reasonable solution with GIA within a two year period of the triggering event. If this effort is not satisfactory, residents may contact the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission, 2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220, Tucker, GA 30084-5305 USA, phone +1 770 414 3300, fax +1 770 414 3309 or online at <https://gnpec.georgia.gov/student-resources/complaints-against-institution>

Residents of Kansas can submit a complaint by contacting the Kansas Board of Regents, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS, 66612-1368; +1 785 430 4240 or at https://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/private_out_of_state/complaint_process

Filing a Complaint with the Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education. To file a complaint with the Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education, a complaint shall be in writing and shall be filed on Form PE-24, 2017 Form to File a Complaint, accompanied, if applicable, by Form PE-25, Authorization for Release of Student Records. The form may be mailed to the following address: Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education, 500 Mero Street, 4th floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. The forms can be found on the website at <https://kcpe.ky.gov/>

Residents of Michigan may submit complaints by contacting the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, at P.O. Box 30018, Lansing, MI, 48909, USA or by phone: 517 241 7000.

Residents of Nebraska may submit a complaint by contacting the Program Director of Private Postsecondary Career Schools, Nebraska Department of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Residents of Nevada may submit a complaint to Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education by email at mjwu@det.nv.gov, by fax at 702-486-7340, or mail at 2800 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104.

Notification of Complaint to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Students dissatisfied with the school's response to their complaint or who are not able to file a complaint with the school, can file a formal complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), as well as with other relevant agencies or accreditors, if applicable. Students who reside in Texas may direct unresolved complaints to:

Texas Workforce Commission, Career Schools and Colleges
Room 226T, 101 East 15th Street,
Austin, TX 78778-0001
Phone +1 512 463 2222

Information on filing a complaint with TWC can be found on TWC's Career Schools and Colleges Website at www.twc.texas.gov/programs/career-schools-colleges

Residents of Utah can submit a complaint by contacting the Utah Division of Consumer Protection, 160 East 300 South, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 146704, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6704 USA, phone +1 801 530 6601, fax +1 801 530 6001 or online at <https://db.dcp.utah.gov/complaints.html>

Residents of Wyoming can submit a complaint by contacting the Wyoming Department of Education, 2300 Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002 USA, +1 307 777 7675 or online at <https://edu.wyoming.gov/>

GIA maintains separate policies and procedures to address complaints related to sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and retaliation and reasonable accommodation. For more information, please visit www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Non-Retaliation Policy

Threats, other forms of intimidation, and retaliation against a student or employee for bringing a complaint of harassment or discrimination or for assisting another in bringing a complaint are prohibited. Retaliation is itself a violation of GIA policy and applicable law, and is a serious offense. Acts of retaliation may result in discipline up to and including dismissal or termination.

Dress Code

GIA's dress code helps maintain an environment that is safe, professional, respectful, and inclusive for all. Students are expected to dress in good taste and appropriate for the occasion or setting. Students are encouraged to dress comfortably with safety as an important consideration. During special occasions, such as Career Fair, business attire should be worn. Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing must not be see-through. Bare feet and clothing with derogatory or offensive messages are prohibited.

Smoking on Campus

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, or use of tobacco in any other form, is prohibited inside GIA buildings. Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor smoking areas. Please help to keep these facilities clean by placing package wrappers, cigarette butts and other debris in designated containers.

Animals on Campus

Service animals are permitted on campus. All other animals and pets are prohibited on campus grounds, including all facilities and parking lots.

Visitors

Visitors to GIA facilities must register with GIA Security prior to being admitted and must be prepared to show current government-issued photo identification. A form is available on the My Education Student Portal at <https://education.gia.edu/> If you come to a GIA facility for a class, to take an exam or to use the Student Workroom, please arrive early to allow a few extra minutes for this process to be completed. Non-student visitors are not allowed in the classrooms while classes are in session.

Gifts

GIA's policy is that neither GIA nor staff may receive gifts. GIA understands and appreciates the various gift-giving traditions in all of the countries and cultures where we work. Given the special nature of our work, however, we observe very strict gift-giving policies to avoid a conflict of interest, or even the appearance of one. Visit www.GIA.edu/ethics-compliance to view the GIA Code of Conduct.

Campus Safety and Security

Keeping GIA campuses safe for our students, employees, and visitors is one of our top priorities.

Clery Report. GIA's Annual Disclosure of Campus Security Policies and Crime Statistics, includes statistics on reported crimes that occurred on campus and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus for the previous three years. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies on alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, hate crimes and other matters. You can obtain a copy of this report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Lab Safety. During hands-on lab sessions, students may use chemicals, equipment and tools that can be hazardous if they are handled incorrectly or without proper precautions. Students must follow all safety guidelines and the instructor's directions when using dangerous tools or hazardous substances, and wash their hands thoroughly after handling any chemicals.

Student Notification of Classroom Chemical Usage

The American Chemical Society's (ACS) Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) promotes and facilitates safe practices in chemical activities and provides guidance for academic institutions. Such guidance includes asking institutions to promote awareness to individuals who may be exposed to chemicals such as gem refractive index (RI) liquid, which contains diiodomethane also known as Methylene Iodide. RI liquid is used in the Graduate Colored Stones program, the Gem Identification Lab class, and the Student Workroom. You may need to exercise special precautions if you are pregnant, if you have certain medical conditions and/or if you have sensitivity or are allergic to this chemical. If you are unsure, contact your physician for advice. GIA provides protective gloves and appropriate disposal containers in each classroom. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is posted in each classroom and GIA will provide a copy on request.

Timely Warnings

GIA will issue a timely warning in the event of a Clery Act crime that occurs on or near GIA's campus that has been reported to a GIA campus security authority or local police agencies and is considered by GIA to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. Timely warnings are issued in a manner that is timely, includes information about the crime that triggered the warning, and that will aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Depending on the circumstances, timely warnings may be distributed to students and employees as an emergency text, email alert, or voice message. GIA emergency evacuation alarms and procedures may also be activated. Employee and student notification information is uploaded daily to the emergency notification system's database to ensure accuracy of message delivery. The system is tested at least once each year.

For detailed information on timely warnings, see GIA's Annual Safety Report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Emergency Notifications

While the issuance of timely warnings is predicated on receiving a report of a crime as defined by the Clery Act, emergency notifications are triggered by a far broader range of potential threats — any significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, employees or visitors on campus. Emergency notifications will be made without delay, taking into account the scope of the emergency and the safety of the community. The Carlsbad campus is equipped with visual signal devices and a PA system to alert students, employees and visitors in the case of an emergency.

Additionally, students will be notified by home phone, cell phone, text message or email. When you receive an automated notification, listen carefully to the instructions; you can also visit www.GIA.edu or call +1 760 603 4000 and listen to the recorded message for further instructions and information. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date so GIA can reach you in an emergency situation. You may log on to your My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> or contact student services to make updates to your record. For detailed information on emergency notifications and evacuation procedures, see GIA's Annual Safety Report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Weapons

Under no circumstances are students or visitors allowed to bring firearms or other weapons to campus. Students found carrying or concealing weapons are disciplined, up to and including dismissal from GIA and referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Search and Seizure

GIA may open and inspect the contents of any student's desk, locker, computer files and software, or other furnishings, if warranted in its judgment, to ensure the health and safety of students and employees. GIA, an independent security service or law enforcement may conduct inspections or searches at any time without notice, including at times when the student is not present. In light of this policy, students should not bring to or store on GIA premises any documents, materials or other item for which they desire privacy. Personal items such as backpacks, purses, totes or other belongings may be subject to search if warranted. Failure to cooperate in any inspection can lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from GIA.

Video and Audio Monitoring

Due to the nature of its business, GIA must ensure the integrity and security of its premises and processes, including but not limited to customer service and the handling of valuable customer property. Accordingly, GIA uses both electronic video and audio monitoring in the workplace. The monitored content may include students' personal data, including without limitation video recordings, audio recordings, footage and photographs of students, casual communications near these locations, and name or any other personal data revealed in video or audio recordings. We do so on the basis of compliance with a legal obligation or for our legitimate interests to protect our business, locations, workers and other parties. Students should not have an expectation of privacy in any public or work areas (GIA does not monitor restrooms or dressing areas).

Each facility has signage posted in the locations where video and audio monitoring is occurring. Please see Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice for complete disclosure.

Parking Policy

There is no charge for student parking in the Carlsbad campus parking lot. Students must have a valid driver's license to receive a campus parking permit. All vehicles must display a current parking permit. The parking lot is secured every night after 6:00 p.m. PT; vehicles may not be left in the lot overnight. The speed limit in the parking lot is 15 mph. Students who violate the parking policy will be warned and are subject to loss of parking privileges and dismissal for repeated violations.

Lost or Damaged Materials

Students are responsible for the books, equipment, metals, and stones available for use in the classroom or loaned to them during the term of their enrollment. Students are charged the replacement cost determined by GIA for any lost books, equipment, metals, and stones and the repair costs of equipment that is damaged beyond normal wear and tear; replacing an item is not an option. If the item is found at a later date, the amount will be refunded to the student.

Commercial Activities

GIA does not permit students to conduct commercial or business activities on GIA property. The display and sale of merchandise is not permitted.

Copyright Infringement and Peer-to-Peer File Sharing

Students must comply with federal copyright laws. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials, including peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject a student to civil and criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary action by GIA, up to and including dismissal. See <https://www.gia.edu/copyright-infringement> for the full policy.

GIA's names and logos, like those of most organizations, are valid trademarks and as such may not be used except as described at <https://www.gia.edu/copyrights-trademarks>. The same is true for GIA's copyrighted materials (including all GIA publications, course materials and printed forms), which may be used only by obtaining prior written consent from GIA. For intellectual property usage requests, please email guidelines@gia.edu

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CAMPUS LOCATIONS

GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

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New York, New York – Branch of Carlsbad
+1 212 944 5900 | nyadmissions@gia.edu | www.GIA.edu

AFFILIATED ENTITIES

Bangkok, Thailand
GIA (International) Company Ltd.
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London, United Kingdom
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+44 20 7813 4321 | gialondon@gia.edu | <https://london.GIA.edu>

Mumbai, India; Surat, India - Branch of Mumbai
GIA India Laboratory Private Limited
+91 22 4085 1500 | eduindia@gia.edu | www.GIAindia.in

Taipei, Taiwan
GIA Instrument (Taiwan) Company
+886 2 2771 9391 | giataiwan@gia.edu | www.GIAtaiwan.com.tw



GIA®

2024

Education Catalog

CARLSBAD CAMPUS
ON CAMPUS DIVISION



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Addendum to the 2024 Education Catalog Carlsbad Campus – On Campus Division

All data in the 2024 Education Catalog Carlsbad Campus – On Campus Division (“Catalog”) reflects information as it was available at the publication date. Updates and/or corrections to the Catalog made after the publication date appear in this addendum.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in the Catalog, GIA reserves the right, in its sole and exclusive discretion, to make changes to the Catalog at any time without prior notice. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of and understand University regulations as published.

California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)- Page 41;
Effective April 1, 2024

The Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) assessment rate will change from two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges to zero dollar (\$0.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges.

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President's Welcome Message

As a GIA graduate, I can tell you firsthand how earning a Graduate Gemologist diploma changed the course of my life. After I completed the program, I had a new set of invaluable skills I could use to shape my future. I started at Borsheims as a sales associate and appraiser and worked my way up to president and CEO. Now I have the privilege and honor of being the president and CEO of GIA.

Many parts of my story are unique, yet it has one element in common with that of many GIA alumni. A GIA education empowered me to achieve my most cherished dream and, in many ways, took me even further than I could have imagined. It is no exaggeration to say that a GIA education is the best investment I made for my future, and I'm confident that this will prove true for you, too.

From gemology to jewelry design, you'll find a variety of programs at GIA, each tailored to give you the expertise you need to get ahead in your field of choice. The knowledge you gain here can equip you for diverse careers, such as sales, manufacturing, designing, appraisal, auctioning and more. Our alumni hold influential positions all along the gem and jewelry industry pipeline, and with a GIA diploma, you can take your place among them.

With over 155,000 active alumni in 55 chapters globally, the GIA Alumni Collective™ continues to offer support and expertise even after you graduate. This invaluable network will provide you with lifelong friendships, industry knowledge and career connections.

Take some time to explore the Education Catalog and find the program that is right for you. Then get ready to dive into gem and jewelry brilliance and a world of opportunity.

We look forward to accompanying you on your professional journey and helping you to follow your passion.

Susan M. Jacques, GIA GG
GIA President and CEO



Susan M. Jacques, GIA President and CEO - ©GIA

Mission and History

Mission Statement

GIA's mission is to ensure the public trust in gems and jewelry by upholding the highest standards of integrity, academics, science and professionalism through education, research, laboratory services and instrument development.

Educational Philosophy

GIA education ensures the public's trust by delivering the highest-quality gem and jewelry education in the world. At the heart of GIA education are the following guiding principles:

Research

We design our educational programs based on the latest research and leading technology.

Relevance

We teach the necessary balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Leadership

We empower our graduates to become industry leaders who act ethically and honestly, meeting the occupational demands of the global gem and jewelry industry.

Accessibility

Our curriculum meets the various needs of all students by offering programs and courses across several learning methodologies without compromising quality.

Sustainability

Through ongoing support, our graduates are encouraged to grow continuously as confident, skilled and successful professionals. They are GIA's partners in ensuring the public's trust in gems and jewelry.

History

On February 15, 1931, former retail jeweler Robert M. Shipley and his wife, Beatrice, cashed in their savings to establish their long-held dream – the Gemological Institute of America.

When most jewelers knew little about the gems they traded, Shipley wanted to professionalize the industry through education, research and gemological instrumentation.

The Institute, initially based out of their home, offered mimeographed mail-order courses and provided gem-testing services using borrowed microscopes and other equipment. From these modest beginnings, GIA has become an institution that has educated more than 365,000 professionals worldwide, a prestigious laboratory grading the world's most important diamonds, the leading gemological research center and the creator of the 4Cs and the International Diamond Grading System™ – the worldwide standard for evaluating diamond quality.

Visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about to learn more about GIA history.

Accreditation and Licensing

GIA is a nonprofit, private, postsecondary educational institution incorporated for the purpose of promoting education and research in gemology, jewelry arts and related subjects. The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 50.0713. The Standard Occupational Classification code for all of GIA's classes, courses and programs is 51.9071.

Accreditation

GIA's main campus and worldwide headquarters in Carlsbad is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). GIA's campus in New York is accredited by the ACCSC as a branch of GIA's campus in Carlsbad. ACCSC's accreditation is institutional in nature and includes GIA's U.S. On Campus programs only. GIA's online courses and Lab classes do not fall within the purview of GIA's institutional accreditation by the ACCSC. ACCSC is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

Licensing and Approvals

This institution is a private institution approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). Approval to operate means the institution is compliant with the minimum standards contained in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (as amended) and Division 7.5 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at 1747 North Market Blvd. Ste. 225 Sacramento, CA 95834. P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818, www.bppe.ca.gov, toll-free telephone number +1 888 370 7589, or by fax +1 916 263 1897.

As required by California Education Code 94909(a)(12), GIA discloses it has no pending petition in bankruptcy, is not operating as a debtor in possession, has not filed a petition within the preceding five years, and has not had a petition in bankruptcy filed against it within the preceding five years that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 1101 et seq.).

As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement. Visit www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information to view the School Performance Fact Sheet.

GIA has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education to offer Title IV federal financial aid to qualified students in GIA's On Campus full time Graduate Gemologist (GG), Graduate Jeweler (GJ) and Jewelry Design & Technology (JDT) programs. Additionally, GIA is approved for qualifying students to receive funding, including veteran's benefits and vocational rehabilitation funding, for the approved On Campus programs from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACCSC

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Arlington, VA 22201 USA
+1 703 247 4212
www.accsc.org

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

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Sacramento, CA 95834 USA
+19165748900
+18883707589
www.bppe.ca.gov

Governance and Executive Management

Board of Governors

The GIA Board of Governors is the steward of the public interest. The board helps direct the strategy of the Institute to ensure that the mission and vision of GIA are followed in all decisions; that the reputation of GIA is preserved and continues to grow globally; and that the financial goals of the Institute are met. Each governor offers a unique perspective, based on their professional experience in retail, research, education, finance, law, manufacturing and other areas; several have extensive international experience.

Lisa A. Locklear - Chair

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Longeveron

Stephen F. Kahler - Vice Chair

Senior Advisor, Strategic Planning & Business Development,
Everidge

Dave Bindra

Vice President of Operations and Head of Acquisitions, B&B
Fine Gems

Lake Dai

Applied AI Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

Barbara Lee Dutrow, Ph.D.

Gerald Cire and Lena Grand Williams Alumni Professor in the
Department of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State
University

Kiko Harvey

Associate Senior Vice President of Audit Services,
University of Southern California

Susan M. Jacques

President and CEO, GIA

Robert Andrew 'Andy' Johnson

CEO, Diamond Cellar Holdings, LLC

Lawrence Ma

Chief Executive, Lee Heng Diamond Group
Founding President of the Diamond Federation of Hong Kong

Russell A. Mehta

Managing Director, Rosy Blue (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Thomas M. Moses

Executive Vice President and Chief Laboratory and Research
Officer, GIA

Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.

Curator-in-charge, National Gem and Mineral Collection,
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Samantha F. Ravich, Ph.D.

Chair of the Center for Cyber and Technology Innovation

Tammy Storino

Experienced global operations and finance leader

Marcus ter Haar

Experienced diamond industry executive

The list shown here is effective as of the publication date of this catalog; visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about-mission-governance-esg for an up-to-date listing.

Executive Management

GIA's executive staff constitutes a diverse group of highly experienced professionals from both inside and outside of the gem and jewelry industry. Responsible for carrying out the Institute's mission to protect and ensure the public trust globally, the executive team follows a strict code of ethics and seeks to infuse each initiative GIA undertakes with dedication and value-driven purpose.

Executive staff maintains daily operations for all areas of the Institute and promotes and continues the growth of GIA.

Visit www.GIA.edu/gia-about-mission-governance for the full list of GIA's executive management.

GIA Education Advisory Boards

The Education Committee of GIA's Board of Governors and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) provide input and perspectives vital to our success, growth and improvement. Our PAC reviews curricula, course materials, equipment, facilities and student outcomes as a means of external review of our programs. Its members are qualified trade representatives who help us keep pace with current occupational trends and practices in the gem and jewelry industry.

Education Committee of the Board

Barbara Lee Dutrow, Ph.D., Chair

Gerald Cire and Lena Grand Williams Alumni Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics
Louisiana State University

Dave Bindra

Vice President of Operations and Head of Acquisitions, B&B Fine Gems

Kiko Harvey

Associate Senior Vice President of Audit Services,
University of Southern California

Susan M. Jacques

President and CEO, GIA

Robert Andrew 'Andy' Johnson

CEO, Diamond Cellar Holdings, LLC

Lisa A. Locklear

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Longeveron

Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.

Mineralogist and Curator-in-Charge of Gems and Minerals,
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Program Advisory Committee

Pamela Balodimas

Regional High Jewelry Gemology Advisor, Cartier/Richemont
New York, NY

Jean Francois Bibet

Workshop Director, Cartier/Richemont
New York, NY

Barry S. Block

President, The Jewelry Judge
Carle Place, NY

Latoya Boyd

Jewelry and Fashion Designer, Jeweler and Influencer,
Latoya Boyd Jewelry
San Diego, CA

Wade Clar

Director of Brand Development, Julez Bryant
Carlsbad, CA

Ted Doudak

President, Riva Precision Manufacturing
Brooklyn, NY

Alexander Eblen

Vice President | Senior Specialist, Sotheby's
New York, NY

Rita Famulare

Owner, Famulare Jewelers
Carlsbad, CA

Alexandra Hart

Owner/Metals Artist and Designer Goldsmith, Alexandra Hart
San Diego, CA

Malcolm Koll

Owner, Charles Koll Jewelers
San Diego, CA

Gail Brett Levine

Executive Director, National Association of Jewelry Appraisers
Rego Park, NY

Christine Lopez

President and Co-Founder, Gem Surprise Box
San Diego, CA

Mary Todd McGinnis

Vice President, Ben Bridge Jewelers
Seattle, WA

Kevin Reilly

Senior Vice President, Platinum Guild International
New York, NY

Kapil Seth

Owner, Malhotra, Inc.
New York, NY

Ashwani (Sonny) K. Sethi

Owner, Tara & Sons
New York, NY

Lauren Stuller

Territory Manager, Customer Experience, Stuller, Inc.
Carlsbad, CA

Thom Underwood

Retired Former Owner, San Diego Gemological Laboratory
San Diego, CA

Kumud Wastrad

Director, High Jewelry - Diamond and Gemstone Acquisition,
Tiffany & Co.
New York, NY

Faculty and Education Management

Faculty

Our faculty are passionate educators dedicated to helping you gain knowledge, acquire skills and launch your career. Each has a minimum of three years of practical industry experience in the areas they teach, are trained in instructional methods and teaching skills and participate in ongoing professional development activities.

The list shown here is effective as of the publication date of this catalog. Please refer to our website at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/faculty for an up-to-date listing of faculty and their qualifications.

Gemology Instruction

John Cason, Manager

GIA GG, AJP

Martin Harmon

GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate, AGS CG

Brenda Harwick, Sr. Manager

GIA GG, AJP

Jessica Kramer

GIA GG, AJP

Carson Lee

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Tim Richardson

MBA, BA Business Administration, BA Music Liberal Arts, GIA GG, AJP

Samantha Shor

BA Biology, GIA GG, AJP

Nina Switzer-Spano

GIA GG, AJP

Teresa Tolbert

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Kate Trunnell

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate, AGS CG

Shelly Verwymeren

GIA GG, AJP, AGS CG

Kate Waterman

MEd, BLS General Studies and Humanity, GIA GG, GJ, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Elly Wedge

GIA GG, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Jewelry Arts Instruction

Amy Ambroult

BFA Graphic Design, GIA AJP

Darla Alvarez

BA Philosophy, GIA GJ, AJP

Manuel Basmajian

GIA AJP

Rebecca Beals

MFA Jewelry Design and Metalsmithing, BFA Jewelry Design and Metalsmithing, NASJ Bench Jeweler, GIA AJP

Paula Carter-Andrews

BA Jewellery and 3D Design, GIA AJP

David Etheridge

GIA GG, GJ, AJP

Douglas Hall

BFA Metalsmithing

Timothy Meier

BFA Jewelry and Ceramics

Paul Neilsen

BFA Metalsmithing

Timothy O'Meara

Carrie Skinner

BFA Metal and Jewelry Arts, NASJ Bench Jeweler, GIA AJP

Education Management

Duncan Pay

Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Corey Rosso

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Kelly Yantzer

Vice President, Student Affairs

Kimberly Overlin

Director, Student Services and Dean of Students

Amanda Perez

Assistant Dean of Students

Renada Koebel

Director, Enrollment Services

Robyn Burrell

Director, Education Compliance and Financial Aid

Robert Weldon

Director, Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center

Alexandria Anderson

Senior Manager, Admissions & Recruitment

Peter Harts

Senior Manager, Career Services

Brenda Harwick

Senior Manager, On Campus Instruction

John Cason

Manager, Instruction

Facility, Classrooms and Equipment

GIA's Carlsbad Campus and World Headquarters is located at The Robert Mouawad Campus, 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, California 92008 USA. All On Campus offerings are held at this facility unless otherwise noted in the course schedule and the student's enrollment agreement. [Find the Carlsbad Campus on Google maps; www.google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)

Facility

The facility is designed to support the Institute's mission by providing a safe and comfortable environment conducive to student learning and achievement. It covers 18 acres of land and includes 16 classrooms; the world's largest gemological library containing more than 65,000 books, over 1,000 periodical titles in various languages and more than 2,000 videos and other media; a museum gallery; a student lounge; outdoor basketball and sand volleyball courts; a gemological research laboratory; administrative offices; parking for more than 1,000 vehicles, electric car charging stations and bike racks.

Wireless Internet access is available at no charge throughout the campus. Computers with Internet access and CAD software are available in the Library for student use during normal operating hours.

Access to GIA buildings and classrooms is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and includes automated doors in all buildings and elevator access to the second floor.

To help ensure the safety and security of our students, employees and guests, the facilities have security officers on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week with restricted/monitored access to the campus and its buildings. Dedicated facilities and education services departments ensure the ongoing and routine maintenance of the facilities, equipment and replenishment of supplies.

See "[Student Life](#)" on [page 11](#) for information about your life as a student at the Carlsbad campus.

Classrooms and Equipment

Gemology classrooms can accommodate up to 24 students and jewelry arts classrooms up to 20 students. Each classroom is amply equipped with the instruments and tools used in each subject area. Classroom equipment, tools and materials used are detailed within each program description in this catalog. See "[On Campus Programs](#)" on [page 15](#)



Top: GIA's Carlsbad Campus and World Headquarters; Bottom: Student Lounge Area - ©GIA

Student Life

The largest GIA campus located in Carlsbad, CA is a hub of creativity, energy and networking opportunities. You will study with like-minded students who are as passionate about gems and jewelry as you are. You'll be part of an international student body, which gives you a global perspective on the gem and jewelry industry and makes for a multicultural experience.

Student Body Council (SBC)

The Student Body Council (SBC), *run by students in support of students*, promotes social and professional interaction. The SBC's objective is to provide outside engagement opportunities, serve as a conduit for student feedback to the Institute and support interaction with the jewelry industry. SBC elected officers are president, vice president and secretary, each with their own unique duties. All On Campus students are eligible to serve as class representatives to help with events and support the elected officials.

Events and Activities

On Campus students may participate in a variety of Institute and student-led activities such as annual SummerFest, Spring Fling, Halloween party, Career Fair and our guest speaker series. The SBC often hosts optional tours, such as a trip to the Oceanview Mine in Pala, CA or a tour of the hall of gems located at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History.

Students in our jewelry arts programs, visit GIA's production room to see how fine jewelry is made including the printing of resin and wax models, model processing, spruing and treeing, investing, burnout and casting.

Inclusion, Diversity and Belonging

GIA's Inclusion, Diversity & Belonging Program honors the uniqueness of each individual embracing diverse backgrounds and different points of view. The program's initiatives and campaigns promote diversity, inclusion, belonging and engagement of the student community we serve. We foster a learning environment where all aspects of our students' identities are recognized and respected and students feel safe and secure.



Top/Middle: GIA SummerFest; Middle/Bottom: GIA Spring Fling - ©GIA

Recreation

The campus has outdoor basketball and sand volleyball courts as well as tennis tables for student use. Carlsbad and its neighboring cities have several state beaches, hiking trails, walking and bike paths, gyms, water sports and golf courses. The campus is just two miles from the nearest beach.

[Outdoor Activities](https://visitcarlsbad.com/outdoors) - <https://visitcarlsbad.com/outdoors>
[Beaches](https://visitcarlsbad.com/beaches) - Visit <https://visitcarlsbad.com/beaches>

Community Service

Community engagement, outreach and environmental stewardship are incredibly important to GIA and are inherent in both our mission and our corporate culture. As an organization, GIA's *Brilliance in Service* program was created to celebrate and reward our employees for their commitment to volunteering in the community.

We encourage students to build a lifelong habit of nurturing their communities to make a positive difference in the lives of others and foster a sense of belonging and connection.

Our faculty, staff and students participate in community service and volunteering throughout the year befitting organizations such as North County Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, American Cancer Society, Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation and Toys for Tots. While you're on campus, be sure to get involved and share your ideas for service.



Top: Making Strides, American Cancer Society; Middle: Assembling hygiene kits for those in need; Bottom: Sack lunch pickup for Interfaith charities - ©GIA

School Calendar and Hours of Operation

2024 School Closure Dates

Classes are not in session on these dates; the campus will be closed with exceptions noted below.

Date	Holiday / Event
January 01, 2024 (Monday)	New Year's Day
January 15, 2024 (Monday)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 02, 2024 (Friday)	AGTA GemFair, Tuscon (campus open, no classes)
February 19, 2024 (Monday)	President's Day
May 27, 2024 (Monday)	Memorial Day
May 31, 2024 (Friday)	JCK Show, Las Vegas (campus open, no classes)
June 10, 2024 (Monday)	Instructor In-Service Day
June 19, 2024 (Wednesday)	Juneteenth Freedom Day (campus open, no classes)
July 04, 2024 (Thursday)	Independence Day
September 02, 2024 (Monday)	Labor Day
September 27, 2024 (Friday)	Career Fair (campus open, no classes)
November 25, 2024 (Monday) through November 29, 2024 (Friday)	Thanksgiving Break
December 23, 2024 (Monday) through January 03, 2025 (Friday)	Winter Break

Hours of Operation

The Carlsbad campus is open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT except for the scheduled school closures noted above.

Registration Period

GIA has one year-long academic term with continuous enrollment. Registration into On Campus programs is accepted up to two weeks prior to the first day of class.

Class Schedules and Classroom Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for up-to-date class schedules.

An in-person orientation is scheduled for each program prior to the start date from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. PT. The in-person orientation for the Graduate Jeweler program is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Class hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students should expect to spend several hours each day outside of class on homework and other assigned projects.

Contacts and Resources

Department Contacts

Admissions

Admission, registration, enrollment, cancellation, general inquiries
+1 760 603 4001 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4001
admissions@gia.edu

Career Services

Career advising, resume and interview preparation, job search, career fair, guest speakers
+1 760 603 4450 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4450
careerservices@gia.edu

Dean of Students

Disability accommodations, leave of absence, withdrawal, probation, dismissal, complaints
+1 760 603 4093 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4093
deanstudents@gia.edu

Education Advising

General tutoring, academic progress support
+1 760 603 4382 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4382
edadvising@gia.edu

Education Service Desk - Technical Support

Applicant Portal, My GIA Education Portal and Blackboard log-in, access and other technical issues
+1 760 603 4350 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4350
www.GIA.edu/education-support

Financial Assistance

Federal financial aid, veterans benefits, vocational rehab, scholarships
+1 760 603 4005 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4005
financialaid@gia.edu

International Student Advising

Student visas, U.S. arrival / departure, living in the U.S.
+1 760 603 4001 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4001
intladvisor@gia.edu

Student Accounts

Financial account, payments, refunds
+1 760 603 4470 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470
educationacctsrec@gia.edu

Student Records

Certificates, diplomas, transcripts, contact information updates, FERPA
+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312
records@gia.edu

Student Services

Housing, transportation, orientation, graduation
+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7304 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7304
studentservices@gia.edu

Title IX and 504 Coordinator

Questions, concerns, complaints related to Section 504 or Title IX
+1 760 603 4093 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4093
titleixcoordinator@gia.edu | 504coordinator@gia.edu

Resources

Alumni Collective™

Alumni resources, global chapters, networking events
+1 760 603 4145 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4145
<https://collective.gia.edu> | alumni@gia.edu

Blackboard Access (Current Students)

My GIA Education Portal: <https://education.gia.edu/> >
Web: <https://blackboard.gia.edu>
Blackboard Learn App:



Web and App requires set-up of a new password.

GIA Store

Optional books and instruments
+1 760 603 4200 | +1 800 421 8161
<https://store.gia.edu> | giastore@gia.edu

Library

Library services and information
+1 760 603 4046 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4046
library@gia.edu

My GIA Education Portal

View your academic, financial and student records; make payments, select a payment plan, submit forms, access courses in Blackboard (single sign-on)
<https://education.gia.edu/>

TELUS Health Student Support

24/7 confidential mental health and well-being support
Phone: +1 866 743 7732
Website: <https://myssp.app/us/home>
TELUS App:



On Campus Programs

GIA offers full-time, instructor-led gemology and jewelry arts certificate and diploma programs through its On Campus division. Our faculty have an in-depth knowledge of gemstones, diamonds, equipment, CAD software, bench techniques and an impressive understanding of the jewelry industry. Our administrators and staff are dedicated to helping you succeed; many are GIA alumni, so they understand what it is like to study full-time at a GIA campus.

The following pages provide a description, learning objectives, possible occupations, equipment and materials and the technology required to complete each program.

Program Name	Program Number	Clock Hours	Instructional Weeks	Program Length (Calendar Duration; May vary with scheduled closures)	Description and Details
GEMOLOGY					
Graduate Gemologist®	GEM 2500	780	26	28	Page 16
Graduate Colored Stones	GEM 2300	570	19	20	Page 20
Graduate Diamonds	GEM 2200	210	7	8	Page 18
JEWELRY ARTS					
Graduate Jeweler	JMA 3300	780	26	27	Page 22
Jewelry Design & Technology	JMA 3400	780	26	27	Page 24
Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry	JMA 400	210	7	7	Page 26
Jewelry Design	JMA 370	270	9	9	Page 28



Students in GIA's Jewelry Design & Technology Program - ©GIA

Graduate Gemologist®



Description

The Graduate Gemologist diploma program delivers a comprehensive gemology education covering both diamonds and colored stones. Topics covered include historical and current industry information, practices throughout the supply chain and relevant diamond and colored stone source information. Students learn the science behind diamond and colored stone formation, appearance and identification, how to describe color by hue, tone and saturation and how to evaluate diamond and colored stone quality factors. Students apply classroom knowledge through in-depth, practical application of the GIA International Diamond Grading System™ and the GIA Colored Stone Grading System. Using professional gemology equipment, students identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants; distinguish natural, treated and laboratory-grown diamonds and gemstones; and grade diamonds and colored stones.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the diamond and colored stone supply chain
- Explain the science of diamond and colored stone formation, appearance and identification
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value
- Grade diamonds using the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight)
- Identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants
- Grade colored stones using the GIA Colored Stone Grading System
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Identify the relationship between proportions and diamond weight
- Describe the GIA International Diamond Grading System™
- Describe the GIA Colored Stone Grading System

What you will Earn

- GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
- GIA Graduate Diamonds Diploma
- GIA Graduate Colored Stones Diploma

Occupations May Include

Appraiser, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Colored Stone Buyer, Diamond Buyer, Diamond Sorter/Grader, Estate Jewelry Dealer, Staff Gemologist, Inventory Control Specialist, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Buyer, Jewelry Sales Professional, Lab and Research Professional, Merchandiser, Pawnbroker, Retailer, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Graduate Gemologist	
Program Number	GEM 2500
Clock Hours	780 clock hours / 26 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	28+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom is equipped with an electronic balance with hydrostatic unit, GIA DiamondDock™, GIA iD100®, UV lamp with viewing cabinet, desktop prism spectroscope, color filter and fiber-optic light unit. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with an overhead light source, diffuser plate and monochromatic light source. As part of their course materials, students receive a 10x loupe, tweezers, gem cloth, pointer probe, plotting pens, table gauge, crown angle card, color grading cards, GIA pad folio, refractometer with polarizing filter and removable magnifying eyepiece, refractive index (RI) liquid, polariscope with magnifying eye piece and an optic figure sphere, dichroscope, handheld spectroscope, pinpoint incandescent light source and lab manuals. Students may download and save PDF copies of the textbooks prior to the course end date.

Technical Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.



GIA microscope; rough and polished amethyst - ©GIA

Graduate Diamonds



Description

The GIA Graduate Diamonds course introduces the foundational skills and knowledge required to make informed decisions when grading, buying and selling diamonds. Students learn the science behind diamond formation, appearance and identification, and discover historical and current diamond industry information and practices throughout the supply chain. Coursework includes the application of the GIA International Diamond Grading System™ to assess the 4Cs – color, clarity, cut and carat weight – and how they affect diamond value. Students use professional diamond grading equipment to examine and plot diamond quality characteristics; grade diamonds according to the 4Cs; detect common diamond treatments; identify diamond simulants. Additionally, students learn the science behind laboratory-grown diamond formation, what tools can be helpful in identification of lab-grown diamonds and when to submit to a laboratory for further testing.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the diamond supply chain
- Explain the science of diamond formation, appearance and identification
- Grade diamonds using the 4Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight)
- Identify the relationship between proportions and diamond weight
- Describe the GIA International Diamond Grading System™
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value
- Identify the relationship between proportions and diamond weight

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Diamonds Diploma

Occupations May Include

Diamond Buyer, Diamond Grader, Diamond Assorter, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Sales Professional, Retailer, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Graduate Diamonds	
Program Number	GEM 2200
Clock Hours / Instructional Weeks	210 clock hours / 7 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	8+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom is equipped with an electronic balance, GIA DiamondDock™, GIA iD100 and a UV lamp with viewing cabinet. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with an overhead light source. As part of their course materials, students receive a 10x loupe, tweezers, gem cloth, pointer probe, plotting pens, table gauge, crown angle cards, color grading cards, GIA pad folio and a lab manual. Students may download and save PDF copies of the textbooks prior to the course end date.

Technology Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.



Rough and polished diamonds - ©GIA

Graduate Colored Stones



Description

The Graduate Colored Stones diploma program blends theoretical knowledge with practical application. Topics include gemstone formation, properties, sources and the colored stone supply chain. Students learn how to describe color by hue, tone and saturation, which gemstones are commercially important and what factors affect gem price and availability. The course describes the general observation process, standard gemological tests and equipment and when advanced laboratory testing and instrumentation is needed for accurate identification. Using professional gemology equipment, students identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants; distinguish natural, treated and laboratory-grown diamonds and colored stones; and grade colored stones.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the components of the colored stone supply chain
- Explain the science of colored stone formation, appearance and identification
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value
- Identify diamonds, colored stones and simulants
- Grade colored stones using the GIA Colored Stone Grading System
- Detect treated and laboratory-grown gemstones
- Describe the GIA Colored Stone Grading System

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Colored Stones Diploma

Occupations May Include

Colored Stone Grader, Colored Stone Sorter, Appraiser, Auction House Jewelry Specialist, Colored Stone Buyer, Estate Jewelry Dealer, Jewelry Business Owner, Jewelry Buyer, Jewelry Sales Professional, Pawnbroker, Retailer, Wholesaler

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Graduate Colored Stones	
Program Number	GEM 2300
Clock Hours / Instructions Weeks	570 clock hours / 19 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	20+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom is equipped with an electronic balance with hydrostatic unit, UV lamp with viewing cabinet, desktop prism spectroscope, color filter and a fiber-optic light unit. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with an overhead light source, diffuser plate and monochromatic light source. As part of their course materials, students receive a refractometer with polarizing filter and removable magnifying eyepiece, refractive index (RI) liquid, polariscope with magnifying eye piece and optic figure sphere, dichroscope, handheld spectroscope, pinpoint incandescent light source, tweezers and lab manuals. Students may download and save PDF copies of the textbooks prior to the course end date.

Technology Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.



Tanzanite crystal and polished gem.
Courtesy: Isle of Gems Co. Ltd./Peter Pereira

Graduate Jeweler



Description

The Graduate Jeweler diploma program introduces the knowledge and skills required for a career in jewelry fabrication and repair. The course offers a hands-on learning environment for students to practice skills including sawing, filing, stone setting, jewelry repair, fabrication and forging, texturing, polishing and electroplating. Topics include basic jewelry design and planning, safe operation of jewelry manufacturing tools and how metallurgical and gemological properties can affect jewelry manufacturing. Students learn how to work safely, sustainably, efficiently, and how to evaluate and improve their workmanship.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate essential jewelry manufacturing skills
- Fabricate findings and completed jewelry pieces using base and precious metals
- Apply texture, polish and electroplating finishes to jewelry surfaces
- Demonstrate common jewelry repairs
- Describe safe operation of common jewelry manufacturing tools
- Explain how metallurgical properties can affect manufacturing affects manufacturing
- Self-evaluate manufacturing skills

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Jeweler Diploma

Occupations May Include

Bench Jeweler, Business Owner, Custom Order Jeweler, Jewelry Buyer, Jewelry Finisher/Polisher, Jewelry Repair Technician, Manufacturing Specialist, Product Developer, Quality Assurance Specialist, Stone Setter

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Graduate Jeweler

Program Number	JMA 3300
Clock Hours / Instructions Weeks	780 clock hours / 26 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	27+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom is equipped with a laser welder, plating station, steam cleaner, ultrasonic cleaner and grinding and polishing stations. Each student workstation has a microscope, torch, micro-motor and other accessories. As part of their course materials, students receive printed course materials and a tool kit that includes a flex shaft, variety of files, pliers, gravers, twist drills, hammers, mallet, mandrels, tweezers, bench block, burs, saw frame and saw blades.

Technical Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.



Student using a jeweler's saw in Graduate Jeweler program - ©GIA

Jewelry Design & Technology



Description

The Jewelry Design & Technology diploma program covers the design of jewelry from concept to CAD (computer-aided design) model to 3D-printed prototype. Topics include design principles and elements, understanding and applying motifs to jewelry, jewelry manufacturing methods including tolerances and dimensions and gemstone setting. Students learn how to create a concept sketch, what manufacturing challenges to consider and how to apply engineering concepts to create jewelry pieces that are durable, comfortable and manufacturable. By the completion of the program, students will have digital and physical portfolios of class projects and custom designs that are ready for presentation to potential clients and employers.

Learning Objectives

- Apply fundamental design concepts
- Describe jewelry manufacturing processes
- Demonstrate ability to create designs based on sources of inspiration
- Create designs using CAD software and a 3D printer
- Design, develop and render CAD models
- Describe and apply engineering concepts to create high-quality, manufacturable designs
- Create concept sketches using illustration software

What You Earn

GIA Jewelry Design & Technology Diploma

Occupations May Include

Jewelry Designer, CAD Designer, Product Developer, Quality Assurance Specialist, CAD/CAM Technician

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Jewelry Design & Technology

Program Number	JMA 3400
Clock Hours / Instructions Weeks	780 clock hours / 26 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	27+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom has computers with networking software for instructors to view and interact with students' CAD designs remotely and a 3D printer. Each student workstation has a computer with Rhinoceros, ZBrush, Preform, Netfabb and Krita software installed, two flat-screen monitors, keyboard, mouse and graphic tablet. Students receive a 1 TB USB external hard drive, 10X loupe, hand-measuring tool, graphic tablet with pen, student license for Rhinoceros and a 6-month trial version of the ZBrush software and printed course materials.

Computer Proficiency

Basic proficiency in the Windows operating system is essential for success in this program, including creating, naming and organizing folders; finding, opening and saving files; and a familiarity with file types including .PDF and JPEG. If needed, please complete a training or refresher course on basic Windows skills prior to starting the program.

Technology Requirements - Portal and LMS

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.

Technology Requirements - Homework

Prior to the first day of class, students must have access to a laptop or desktop computer that meets the following requirements in order to complete homework assignments. The estimated cost to purchase a laptop meeting these requirements is \$1,800.

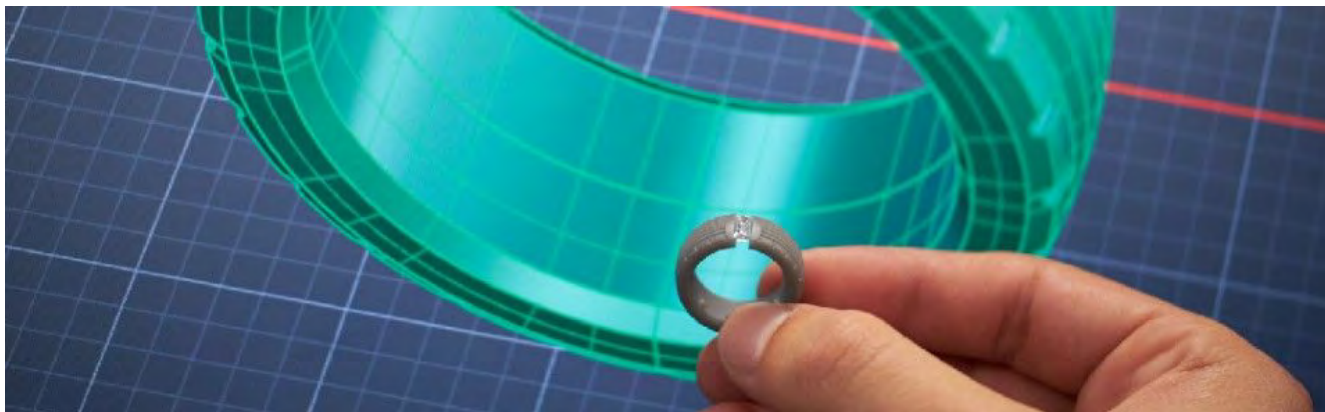
- Windows-based laptop or desktop computer with mouse and keyboard required
 - Recommended: Multiple-button mouse with a scroll wheel
- Operating System: Windows 10 or later with 64-bit Intel or ADM processor (not ARM)
- Processor
 - Minimum: Intel i7 with 2.8 GHz or higher
 - Recommended: Intel i9, AMD Ryzen 7 or Threadripper
- RAM: 16GB or more
- Graphics Card (GPU): OpenGL 4.1 capable video card with 4GB VRAM
 - To be able to render photo-realistic designs quickly, we highly recommend the NVIDIA GeForce 3000 series or higher
- Hard Drive
 - Minimum: 512GB free main hard drive space
 - Recommended: 1TB HDD or greater (SSD drive highly recommended)
- Monitor Resolution: 1920×1080 or higher with 32-bit color

GIA provides computers, graphic tablets and software for classroom use. For home use, the materials fee includes a graphic tablet and pen, a student license for Rhinoceros software and a six month trial for the ZBrush software.



Students use CAD software and 3D printers as a rapid prototyping system to design & manufacture jewelry - ©GIA

Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry



Description

The Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry certificate program covers the skills necessary to take a design from concept to CAD (Computer-Aided Design) model to 3D-printed prototype. Topics include jewelry manufacturing techniques, jewelry-engineering fundamentals and CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing) machines. Students use CAD software to develop models and photo-realistic rendering of jewelry designs.

Learning Objectives

- Describe jewelry manufacturing fundamentals
- Describe and apply engineering concepts to create high-quality, manufacturable designs
- Create, render and prototype designs using CAD software
- Describe various CAM technologies
- Model and render manufacturable pieces of jewelry using CAD

What You Earn

GIA Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry Certificate

Occupations May Include

CAD/CAM Technician, Jewelry CAD Technician, Product Developer

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry

Program Number	JMA 400
Clock Hours / Instructions Weeks	210 clock hours / 7 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	7+ calendar weeks (program length may vary based on holidays or other scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each classroom has computers with networking software for instructors to view and interact with students' CAD designs remotely. Each student workstation has a computer with Rhinoceros software installed, two flat-screen monitors, keyboard, mouse and graphic tablet. Students receive a student license for Rhinoceros software, 1 TB USB external hard drive and printed course materials.

Computer Proficiency

Basic proficiency in the Windows operating system is essential for success in this program, including creating, naming and organizing folders; finding, opening and saving files; and a familiarity with file types including PDF and JPEG. If needed, students should complete training or a refresher course on basic Windows skills prior to starting the program.

Technology Requirements - Portal and LMS

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.

Technology Recommendations - Coursework

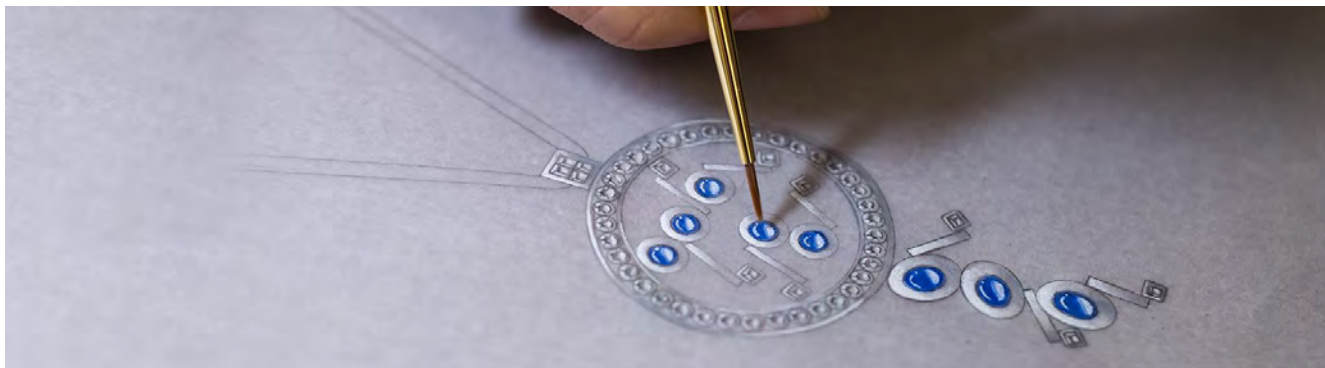
For coursework, GIA provides the technology and software required for classroom use. However, it is strongly recommended that students have access to a computer that meets the requirements below to practice outside of classroom hours. The estimated cost to purchase a laptop meeting these requirements is \$1,800.

- Windows-based laptop or desktop computer with mouse and keyboard
 - Recommended: Multiple-button mouse with a scroll wheel
- Operating System: Windows 10 or later with 64-bit Intel or AMD processor (not ARM)
- Processor
 - Minimum: Intel i7 with 2.8 GHz or higher
 - Recommended: Intel i9, AMD Ryzen 7 or Threadripper
- RAM: 16GB or more
- Graphics Card (GPU): OpenGL 4.1 capable video card with 4GB VRAM
 - To be able to render photo-realistic designs quickly, we highly recommend the NVIDIA GeForce 3000 series
- Hard Drive:
 - Minimum: 512GB free main hard drive space
 - Recommended: 1TB HDD or greater (SSD drive highly recommended)
- Monitor Resolution: 1920x1080 or higher with 32-bit color



CAD-rendered earrings - ©GIA

Jewelry Design



Description

The Jewelry Design certificate program provides students with the fundamental knowledge of design theory and the technical hand-rendering skills commonly employed in jewelry design. Students acquire a working knowledge of jewelry artistry. Skills taught include illustrating the shape, form and texture of metal; working with drafting tools; and rendering yellow and white metals as well as a range of faceted and cabochon gemstones and pearls. By the completion of the program, students will have a portfolio of class projects and custom designs ready for presentation to potential clients and employers.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate ability to create designs based on sources of inspiration
- Describe jewelry design theory and artistry
- Demonstrate rendering skills with graphite, colored pencils and water color paints
- Illustrate the shape, form and texture of metal
- Render faceted and cabochon gems, pearls and colored stones
- Demonstrate traditional drafting techniques used for enhanced rendering
- Develop and refine motifs used for jewelry design

What You Earn

GIA Jewelry Design Certificate

Occupations May Include

Jewelry Designer, Custom Designer, Hand Renderer, Sales Associate, Technical Designer

Contact us at careerservices@gia.edu for more information.

Details

Jewelry Design

Program Number	JMA 370
Clock Hours / Instructions Weeks	270 clock hours / 9 instructional weeks
Program Length (Calendar Duration)	9+ calendar weeks (length may vary with scheduled breaks)
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36

Schedules and Class Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Normal class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

Each student workstation is equipped with two flat-screen monitors for close-up viewing of live instructor demonstrations. As part of their course materials, students receive a design toolkit containing a variety of paints, pencils, brushes, templates, papers and vellum and printed course materials.

Technology Requirements

To access the My GIA Education Portal and the Blackboard LMS, students are required to have a valid email address that is not shared with others (for security purposes). Students must also have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device with a stable Internet connection that meets the following requirements.

- Operating system:
 - Computers - Windows 8 or higher, MacOS 11 or higher
 - Tablets and mobile devices - Most recent version of iOS or Android
- Supported Browsers: Most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari
- Screen resolution: 1280 x 720 or above (recommended to access online curriculum)
- Cookies allowed and pop-up blockers disabled
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: most recent version (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader>)

Requirements subject to change; students will be given advanced notice of changes.



Hand-rendered necklace - ©GIA

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to On Campus programs at GIA's Carlsbad campus, applicants must meet the following requirements: i) have a high school diploma or the equivalent, ii) be at least 18 years of age prior to attending orientation or any class, iii) have the ability to read and write in English at the level of a U.S. high school graduate.

All programs are taught in English. GIA does not offer English as a second language (ESL) instruction.

Required Documents

Applicants must provide the following documents along with their completed application. All documents must be in English or accompanied by an English-language translation provided by a translation service.

☑ Identification

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents must provide a copy of a valid, government-issued ID showing full legal name and birth date. U.S. permanent residents must also provide a copy of their residency card.
- Applicants who are not a U.S. citizen or permanent residents must provide a passport copy showing full legal name, birth date, citizenship and country of birth.

☑ Proof of Graduation

Copy of your diploma or degree, or an official transcript showing the graduation date for ONE of the following:

- High school / high school equivalency diploma
- Undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited college or university
- State-issued secondary school completion for home-schooled high school graduates

If sending an official transcript, it must be sent directly from your school to GIA.

Proof of graduation from foreign countries must be certified to be at least equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma by an evaluation service provider who is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or the Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE). Visit their websites to locate an approved evaluation service:

- NACES: www.naces.org/members
- AICE: <https://aice-eval.org/endorsed-members>

☑ Proof of English-language Proficiency

Applicants whose citizenship or proof of graduation is from a country where English is the official language* are exempt from this requirement. All others must provide documentation for ONE of the following.

- Completed at least 3 years of study in secondary or post-secondary education with English as the medium of instruction.
 - Provide a letter on the school's letterhead that states how many years you studied and that English was the medium of instruction.
 - The letter must be signed and dated by the school's dean, director, or headmaster.
- Met the minimum requirement on an approved English-language proficiency exam. See "[English-Language Proficiency Exams](#)" on page 31

☑ Proof of Financial Ability (if applicable)

For international applicants, U.S. regulations require GIA to collect supporting financial documents prior to issuing a Form I-20 to show that the applicant has the ability to pay all program costs and living expenses for themselves and any dependents. Download the Required Financial Documents for Issuance of Form I-20 at <https://education.gia.edu/ICS/Admissions/> for documentation requirements. Contact the international student advisor at +1 760 603 4001 or intladvisor@gia.edu with any questions.

☑ Name Change Documentation (if applicable)

If your legal name differs from the one on a required admission document, you must show proof of a legal name change that ties all of your documents together. Provide a copy of a court-issued document showing your former and new legal name, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or other court-issued document.

* **English-language Countries.** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Denmark, Dominica, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Montserrat, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Scotland, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe (Field Listing - Languages, The World Factbook. Central Intelligence Agency)

English-Language Proficiency Exams

Applicants who are required to take an English-language proficiency exam must meet the minimum requirement for **ONE** of these approved exams or courses.

Testing / Language Center	Minimum Requirement
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®); www.ets.org/toefl.html GIA's TOEFL code is 9144	Overall band score of 8 on TOEFL Essentials™ or 61 on TOEFL iBT® or 500 on paper-based TOEFL <i>The Institutional TOEFL (ITP) test is not accepted.</i>
International English Language Testing System (IELTS™); www.ielts.org	Overall band score of 6.0 on IELTS Academic
International Test of English Proficiency (iTEP); www.itepexam.com	Level 4 on iTEP Academic-Plus
Pearson Test of English (PTE); www.pearsonpte.com	50 or higher on PTE Academic
Cambridge English Exams; www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests	Overall Cambridge English Scale score of 173 on B2 First, C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency
ELS Language Centers; www.els.edu	Successfully complete a level 109 or higher course
Duolingo English Test; www.englishtest.duolingo.com	Score of 105 or higher

TOEFL®, IELTS™, iTEP and PTE academic scores are valid for two years from the date of the examination.

For ELS Language Centers, request your official academic record from the campus you attended and submit to GIA; certificates are not accepted.

How to Apply

To apply for admission to an On Campus program:

1. Confirm that you meet all admission requirements listed on [page 30](#)
2. Select your program and intended start date.
 - Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for class schedules.
3. Meet with a financial aid advisor to determine your financial obligation.
 - See "Tuition and Fees" on [page 36](#)
 - See "Financial Aid and Scholarships" on [page 38](#)
4. Gather the required documents listed on [page 30](#)
5. Create an account and sign in to GIA's applicant portal at www.GIA.edu/applynow
6. Follow the instructions to complete your application and upload your supporting documentation.
7. Review and submit your application.

A GIA admissions representative will review your application to ensure you have met all requirements and notify you of your acceptance or denial of admission.

After you have been accepted for admission, you will receive information on how to log into the My GIA Education Portal to make any required payment. A registration confirmation and an enrollment agreement will be sent to your email address on record. The agreement includes course details, financial obligations, important policies, disclosures and notices.

Application Deadline and Waitlists

Applications must be received no later than two weeks before your intended start date. Classes typically reach capacity three months in advance, so apply early. Students are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. If a class reaches capacity, students are placed on a waitlist and notified if a seat becomes available.

Proof of Graduation - Extenuating Circumstances

An applicant who meets all admission requirements but is unable to obtain proof of graduation after exhausting all avenues may submit a petition of exception to GIA's admissions committee. For example, a student from a war-torn country whose school no longer exists. The student may be approved to take and pass an admissions test as determined by GIA in lieu of documentation and provide a signed statement attesting that they in fact obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent along with the reason(s) why documentation cannot be provided. Contact admissions@gia.edu for inquiries.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is GIA's policy not to engage in discrimination against, or harassment of any student enrolled in or seeking enrollment in GIA on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, religion, creed, gender, age, disability, medical condition, pregnancy or parental status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, caste, union membership, political affiliation, physical appearance, HIV status, or any other classification protected by applicable federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations and remaining compliant and consistent with the Civil Rights Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy on non-discrimination applies to admissions, enrollment, scholarships, loan programs, employment and access to participation in all GIA programs and activities.

Residency and Applicant Screening

Educational services to some countries may be restricted by U.S. law. Additionally, all applicants are screened against global watch lists to comply with U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and other applicable laws and regulations. GIA may not admit individuals who are sanctioned or reside in a country or territory sanctioned by the U.S. government. Visit www.GIA.edu/ethics-compliance for more information.

Prior Criminal Offenses

GIA does not require applicants to provide information about prior criminal offenses. Please note that prior convictions may result in challenges in securing employment after graduation.

Payment Methods

Students may make payments online through the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>. Student accounting staff are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m. PT to discuss your account. Contact us at educationacctsrec@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470, +1 760 603 4470 or email

All payments must be in U.S. Dollars. Please note the following information regarding payment methods.

Credit Card. Pay online using VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express

ACH. Pay online using ACH (electronic bank transfer). Payment must be drawn on a U.S. bank.

Check or Money Order. Pay by mail with a cashier's check, personal check or money order payable to GIA. Payment must be drawn on a U.S. bank.

Wire Transfer. Pay online using Western Union. To use another wire transfer provider, contact us at +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470, +1 760 603 4470, or educationacctsrec@gia.edu for details. Students are responsible for any wire transfer fees that they incur.

Past Due Account Balance

Students who have a past due account balance will have disrupted service. Students will not be able to access courses in Blackboard, may not register into future courses or programs and will not receive their credential until they have settled the payment(s) owed.

Third-Party Payer Information

If someone other than the student is paying any part of a student's tuition and fees, such persons will be required to provide their full name and country of residence on the application for admission and once again at the time of payment. If a student's employer is paying any part of a student's tuition and fees, the student or the employer will be required to provide the full company name and address or other identifying information at GIA's request.

Nonimmigrant Visa Requirements

Students from outside the U.S. must be aware of the rules and regulations that govern their stay in the U.S. and pertain to their enrollment at GIA. GIA is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant students. GIA does not vouch for international applicants and does not offer visa services.

Student Visas. Nonimmigrant students attending GIA generally enter the U.S. on an M-1 (vocational) student visa. Those who enter the U.S. under another visa type usually cannot attend GIA's programs. Students already in the U.S. on a valid nonimmigrant visa may be eligible to apply for a change of status to an M-1 visa but certain restrictions apply. Contact the international student advisor about changing your status.

Dependents. A spouse and/or qualifying children under the age of 21 may accompany you to the U.S. under an M-2 nonimmigrant visa. Notify the international student advisor to include any dependents on your Form I-20 so they may apply for an M-2 visa.

Listed below are the requirements and steps you must follow to apply for a visa, maintain your status, enter and depart the U.S. and a listing of additional resources.

Contact GIA's international student advisor at +1 760 603 4001 or intladvisor@gia.edu for questions or assistance.

Issuing Your Form I-20

Nonimmigrant students and eligible dependents must be issued Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status" by the school in order to obtain the appropriate visa.

Proof of Financial Ability. During admission, you must provide supporting financial documents to show that you have the ability to pay all program costs and living expenses for yourself and any dependents. GIA is required to collect these supporting documents prior to issuing Form I-20.

Download the *Required Financial Documents for Issuance of Form I-20* at <https://education.gia.edu/ICS/Admissions/> for documentation requirements.

Issuing Your Form I-20. GIA will issue your Form I-20 within 5 business days of receiving your I-20 Release Form. Keep this document safe as you will need it throughout the international student life cycle.

Reviewing Your Form I-20. Review this form carefully and confirm that all personal details are accurate. Compare the form to your passport information to confirm that your name and date of birth are correct. If the information on your Form I-20 is incorrect, contact the international student advisor to correct and send you an updated form.

Paying your SEVIS I-901 Processing Fee

After you verify your Form I-20 is correct, pay your SEVIS I-901 processing fee at <https://fmjfee.com>

- The fee must be paid prior to applying for your nonimmigrant student visa or, for Canadians and Bermudians, at least three business days prior to arrival at the U.S. port of entry.
- Once you pay your fee, print your receipt from <https://fmjfee.com>. You will need this as proof of payment at your visa appointment and again when you enter to the U.S.
- The fee is not required for M-2 dependent applicants.

View the tutorial at <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/i-901-sevis-fee-payment-video>

Applying for Your Nonimmigrant Visa

After getting a receipt for payment of the I-901 fee, you can apply for your student visa. If you are a citizen of Canada or Bermuda, there is no need to apply. You will obtain your visa at the U.S. port of entry. See "Information for Canadian and Bermudian Citizens" on page 34

When to apply. Apply as early as possible. The timing for this process varies by country and can take at least 90 days to complete. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate does not issue student visas earlier than 365 days from the I-20 start date, but you may apply earlier.

How to apply. There are several steps to apply for a visa.

- Locate your U.S. Embassy or Consulate at www.usembassy.gov and review the specific details to apply for your M-1 vocational student visa. The order of these steps and how you complete them may vary by embassy or consulate.
- Complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160 at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv>
 - Note the Application ID for future reference
 - Upload your photo in the format explained on the site
 - Print the application form confirmation page to bring to your interview
- Schedule an interview with your U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Prepare for and attend your interview.
 - Pay any required visa application fee. If your visa is approved, you may also need to pay a visa issuance fee. Review the instructions on the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will apply to learn more about fee payment.
 - Gather all required documentation to bring to your interview.

U.S. Arrival and Departure

Nonimmigrant students on an M-1 visa may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before their program start date. Do not travel to the U.S. without your Form I-20 and the applicable nonimmigrant student visa (M-1) in your passport. For Canadians or Bermudians, you must have the applicable M-1 visa status.

Nonimmigrant students are only allowed to remain in the U.S. in accordance with current immigration law and the time limits stated on their immigration documents. A student who has maintained their M-1 visa status is allowed to stay 30 days after their graduation date.

Information for Canadian and Bermudian Citizens

Canadian and Bermudian citizens are not required to apply for an entry visa. Instead, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer at the U.S. port of entry grants your visa status after ensuring that you meet all admissibility requirements.

You must have your I-20, SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt, financial support documents and other important documents in hand when you present yourself at the U.S. port of entry. Visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate website for your country at www.usembassy.gov for detailed information. Nonimmigrant students can enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days from the start date indicated on their I-20.

Nonimmigrant Student Resources

U.S. immigration laws and requirements are subject to change. The U.S. Consulate in your home country has the most up to date information. Visit www.usembassy.gov to locate your U.S. Consulate.

- U.S. Department of State: Visa requirements, wait times and more at U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov>
- U.S. Department of State: Details about the M-1 vocational student visa, process and application requirements: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html>
- Study in the States: Resource provided by the Student Exchange Visitor Program for prospective and current students to learn about studying in the U.S. before and after their arrival: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>
- EducationUSA: U.S. Department of State resource to help international students learn what to expect as a student in the U.S. including pre-arrival, U.S. culture, education system, classroom culture and more: <https://educationusa.state.gov>

Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution

The transferability of credits you earn at the Gemological Institute of America is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the diploma or certificate you earn in the educational program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the diploma or certificate that you earn at this institution is not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending the Gemological Institute of America to determine if your diploma or certificate will transfer.

Transfer Credit Policy

GIA does not accept transfer credit from other institutions. GIA does not currently have an articulation or transfer agreement with any other institution. GIA does not accept transfer credit for experiential or equivalent learning, challenge examinations or achievement tests.

GIA will evaluate prior credit for students receiving VA and DOD (Department of Defense) benefits, grant credit as appropriate (if applicable), notify the student of the evaluation and adjust the program hours accordingly (if applicable). Students should contact GIA at FinancialAid@gia.edu for more information.

Transferability of Coursework to another GIA Program

Graduate Diamonds or Graduate Colored Stones diplomas earned through a full-time, On Campus program at a GIA campus location or a GIA-affiliated school entity will be accepted for credit toward the Graduate Gemologist diploma.

Any credential, course or lab class completed through GIA's Online Division are not transferable into a full-time, On Campus program. Therefore, students who have completed any portion of their Graduate Gemologist diploma program online will receive an online diploma. Details on credit awarded towards an online diploma are documented in the the GIA Education Catalog for GIA's Online Division.

Student Consumer Information

Additional Student Consumer Information may be found on our website: www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Tuition and Fees

Total charges are valid for programs, courses and classes from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and are subject to change with reasonable advanced notice. Amounts shown are in U.S. dollars. The total charges for each program include tuition costs, required books and materials, sales tax and the California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) assessment fee. [See "California Student Tuition Recovery Fund" on page 41](#)

Program Charges

Program	Tuition	Books	Materials	Sales Tax	CA STRF	Total Charges*	Optional Books**
GEM 2500 - Graduate Gemologist	\$23,700.00	\$515.00	\$1,855.00	\$183.67	\$65.00	\$26,318.67	\$980.00
GEM 2200 - Graduate Diamonds	\$6,600.00	\$160.00	\$143.00	\$23.48	\$17.50	\$6,943.98	\$245.00
GEM 2300 - Graduate Colored Stones	\$17,100.00	\$355.00	\$1,712.00	\$160.19	\$47.50	\$19,374.69	\$735.00
JMA 3300 - Graduate Jeweler	\$23,400.00	\$575.00	\$1,875.00	\$189.88	\$65.00	\$26,104.88	\$0.00
JMA 3400 - Jewelry Design & Technology	\$23,400.00	\$785.00	\$723.00	\$116.87	\$62.50	\$25,087.37	\$0.00
JMA 400 - Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry	\$6,300.00	\$370.00	\$273.00	\$49.83	\$17.50	\$7,010.33	\$0.00
JMA 370 - Jewelry Design	\$8,100.00	\$175.00	\$337.00	\$39.68	\$22.50	\$8,674.18	\$0.00

* Total charges do not include optional textbooks or technology for offsite use. [See "Additional Program Costs" on page 37.](#)

** Estimated costs exclude shipping, handling and applicable taxes.

Payment Due Dates

Students may choose to pay all required tuition and fees up front or in installments due at the following increments. After registration, specific due dates and amounts are listed in your account statement available in the My GIA Education Portal.

At Registration. A deposit of \$2,500 is due at the time of registration to hold your seat in class. The deposit is applied towards the tuition amount.

Before the First Day of Class.

- For programs less than 17 weeks, the remaining balance is due before the first day of class (Balance = Total Charges - Deposit of \$2,500).
- For programs that are 17 weeks or longer, 50% of the tuition and fees for books, materials, sales tax and CA STRF are due before the first day of class.

At the Mid-Point of the Program. For programs that are 17 weeks or longer, any remaining balance is due at the mid-point of the program.

For students using Veterans Administration Education Benefits, tuition and fee payments will be waived for up to 90 days from the date that GIA certifies the student's enrollment following receipt of a certificate of eligibility or a valid VAF 28-1905.

Past Due Account Balance

Students who have a past due account balance will have disrupted service. Students will not be able to access courses in Blackboard, may not register into future courses or programs and will not receive their credential until they have settled the payment(s) owed.

Additional Program Costs

Optional Printed Textbooks - Gemology

All gemology course curriculum is accessible online in the Blackboard learning management system. Students can access and download PDF versions of textbooks through the end date specified in their enrollment agreement. Printed versions of these textbooks are optional and may be purchased through the My GIA Education Portal any time after registration. They can be shipped to your home prior to your arrival or delivered to the Carlsbad campus directly to save on shipping costs.

Jewelry Design & Technology - Required Technology

Students are required to have access to a computer that meets the minimum requirements specified on [page 25](#) to complete their homework. Note that homework is assigned starting the first day of class. The estimated average cost to purchase a laptop meeting the recommended specifications is \$1,800 excluding shipping, handling and tax. GIA does not sell computers.

Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry - Recommended Technology

Students are not required to do work at home, however it is strongly recommended that students have access to a computer that meets the minimum requirements listed on [page 27](#). The estimated average cost to purchase a laptop meeting the recommended specifications is \$1,800 excluding shipping, handling and tax. GIA does not sell computers.

Additional Fees

Additional, non-refundable, fees may include:

- Living expenses such as housing, food, medical, insurance, transportation and entertainment
- Wire payment transfer fees
- Fees for optional books and materials, shipping, handling and applicable taxes
- Fees for any lost or damaged equipment, precious metals and stones
- Fees for replacement of any required books, tools and materials
- Fees for repeat hours (if applicable; hourly rate = tuition / total hours)
- \$35 payment plan administration fee
- \$15 late fee (payment plans)
- \$15 fee for non-sufficient funds or returned checks
- \$15 ID badge replacement fee
- \$10 student locker key replacement fee
- \$10 parking permit replacement fee
- \$10 official transcript fee
- \$70 diploma replacement fee
- \$65 certificate replacement fee

Financial Aid and Scholarships

GIA is pleased to offer a number of financial assistance options to those who qualify including federal student aid, veterans benefits, vocational rehab benefits and institutional scholarships. Students may also find outside aid such as private scholarships and loans. Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education-financial-aid or contact us at financialaid@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4005.

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Federal student aid is available to those who qualify.

General Eligibility Requirements

- Be U.S. Citizen, National, Permanent Resident, or other eligible noncitizen.
- Have a valid social security number (SSN)
- Show that you are qualified to obtain a college education by having a high school diploma or recognized equivalent or by completing high school in a home-school setting approved under state law
- Be accepted or enrolled in an eligible program. The following 780 clock-hour programs are eligible for federal aid:
 - Graduate Gemologist
 - Graduate Jeweler
 - Jewelry Design & Technology
- Sign the certifying statements on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) stating that:
 - You're not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe a refund on a federal grant
 - You'll use federal student aid only for educational purposes
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress. See ["Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) Requirements" on page 40](#)

Additional requirements for each type of aid is listed below.

Federal Grants

A grant is a form of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).

Federal Pell Grant (PELL). Awarded to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree.

Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Awarded to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. This grant has a limited amount of funds. Once the full amount of the funds has been awarded, no more FSEOG awards can be made for that year.

Federal Direct Loans

A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. If you apply for financial aid, you may be offered loans as part of your school's financial aid offer.

Direct Subsidized Loan. Available to eligible undergraduate students (including those enrolled in an eligible GIA diploma program) who demonstrate financial need.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Available to eligible undergraduate (including those enrolled in an eligible GIA diploma program), graduate and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need.

Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). Loans made to graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid. Eligibility is not based on financial need, but a credit check is required.

Cost of Attendance (Student Budget)

A standardized cost of attendance, or student budget, is calculated by GIA every year as an estimate of a typical student's total educational and living costs. These are published at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/financial-aid-cost-attendance

Different budgets are determined for each program and whether or not a student is independent, dependent, or will be living with parents. According to federal regulations, your award cannot exceed the Cost of Attendance. The budget determined for your individual circumstance is shown on your College Financing Plan and on your Financial Aid Student Portal.

GIA's Net Price Calculator is another tool to help you estimate the cost of the program in which you choose to enroll and is available at www.GIA.edu/net-price-calculator

Student Consumer Information

Additional information may be found at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The EFC is a measure of how much the student and his or her family can be expected to contribute to the cost of the student's education for a given award year and can impact a student's eligibility for certain types of federal student aid.

The EFC is calculated according to a formula specified in the law. The amount of expected family contribution is deducted from the student budget in determining your financial need.

If you are a dependent student, we will calculate an expected family contribution based on the income and asset information furnished by you and your parents on the FAFSA. If you are an independent student, we will determine a family contribution based on the income and asset information you furnish on the FAFSA.

How to Apply for Federal Student Aid

Complete the following steps at least two months prior to your program start date.

Step 1. Apply for admission to GIA and indicate the types of financial aid you are requesting on your application. See "Admissions Policies and Procedures" on page 30

Step 2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®); <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Step 3. Meet with a financial aid advisor to discuss your possible financing options and address your questions.

Step 4. After your acceptance for admission and receiving your award notification, decide if the aid being offered is sufficient to allow you to attend GIA and if you would like us to register you into your selected program.

How Federal Student Aid Is Disbursed

All funds are disbursed electronically directly to your GIA tuition account. Federal regulations require financial aid awards be disbursed at least twice during the term of a student's enrollment.

- First payment. The first half (50%) of your federal aid funds will be disbursed seven days after the program start date for grants and after 30 days from start date for federal direct loans.
- Second payment. The second half of your funds will be disbursed after completing more than 50% (mid-point) of your program.

If you are receiving aid for more than program, funds are disbursed for each program separately as outlined above.

Excess Loan Refunds

You or your parents may borrow more loan funds than required to pay your tuition and fees to be used for living expenses. Any amount borrowed exceeding required tuition and fee payments is refunded to you or your parent within 14 days of these funds being received by GIA.

Overawards and Overpayments

An overaward can occur when your financial need is exceeded by your own resources or other financial aid, such as scholarships or VA benefits. You must inform the financial aid office if you receive any additional resources that you did not originally report on your FAFSA application. If your financial need is reduced, it may result in an overpayment of federal aid. Your account will be charged for any aid you are no longer entitled to and any balance must be repaid. GIA services will be disrupted until your account is brought current. To avoid this situation, report any changes in your financial situation immediately. See "Past Due Account Balance" on page 32

Cancellation or Withdrawal of Enrollment

If you are receiving federal aid and cancel or withdraw from the program, we must calculate the amount of aid earned and any amount that must be returned according to U.S. Title IV regulations. Unearned aid will be charged to your account. These regulations are separate from any refund policy GIA may have. See "Return of Title IV Funds" on page 45.

Loan Repayment Options

Before accepting a loan, assess your current financial commitments and your future ability to repay loans. Federal loans provide a range of repayment options. For more information, visit <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans>

It is essential that you understand your commitment and responsibility to repay your loans according to the stipulated repayment schedules. Delinquent or defaulted accounts can be referred to collection agencies and reported to credit bureaus, which can affect your ability to receive credit in the future. GIA services, including future enrollment, can also be withheld due to delinquent loan repayment. See <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/default>

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Requirements

Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to be eligible for federal student aid. SAP is reviewed at the end of each payment period. Students who fail to meet SAP requirements at the end of the first payment period are placed on a *Financial Aid Warning* status and the student remains eligible for aid for one additional payment period.

GIA's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy applies equally to all students regardless of Title IV funding. See "[Academic Progress Policies](#)" on page 53

Financial Aid Entrance and Exit Counseling

All federal student aid recipients must participate in entrance and exit counseling. A few days prior to your start date, you will meet with a financial aid advisor for entrance counseling. We will review your official award notification listing the types of aid available to you, your student budget, expected family contributions and other pertinent information. You must accept or decline any aid offered before we can disburse funds. If you fail to attend online or in-person entrance counseling, you will not be able to obtain your federal student loan. All students receiving loans are required to attend exit counseling with a financial aid advisor to review your loan obligations, repayment schedule and deferment rights under the various loan programs. Failure to attend exit counseling will result in your diploma being withheld.

Veterans Administration (VA) Education Benefits

Students with eligible VA GI Bill® Education Benefits may use them for qualifying On Campus programs. VA GI Bill® Education Benefits provide financial support for educational and housing expenses to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2011, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for VA GI Bill® Education Benefits. Check eligibility status with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill> and determine the amount for which you qualify prior to enrolling.

Tuition and fee payments will be waived up to 90 days from the program start date.

The California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE) is part of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and operates under the authority of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). CalVet may approve the application of an accredited or non-accredited school, training facility or establishment, when the school, facility, or establishment and its programs are found to have met the criteria and additional reasonable criteria prescribed by law. For more information and most updated approved GIA programs, visit www.GIA.edu/va-gi-bill-benefits

If you are the spouse or child of a service member who is serving on active duty, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the DOD for education, training and/or the occupational license and credentials necessary for a portable career. If you are the spouse or child of a service member, you may be eligible for transfer of the service member's VA GI Bill® Education Benefits to you. To check your eligibility and how to apply, please visit www.va.gov

Vocational Rehabilitation Education Benefits

Vocational rehabilitation assistance programs administered by the Veterans Administration (Veteran Readiness and Employment or VR&E), individual state agencies or private agencies authorize students to enroll and study at GIA's On Campus programs. For more information, contact financialaid@gia.edu or visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education-vocational-rehabilitation-enrollment-procedure

Private Loans

Private student loans offer variable rates that can increase or decrease over time depending on market conditions. Students should determine the interest rate, fees and repayment terms of any private student loan they are considering before accepting a private student loan. You may not borrow more than your Cost of Attendance less any financial aid received.

Scholarships

GIA offers many opportunities for students to receive a scholarship. Scholarship offerings are made available to assist eligible students reduce their financial burden and focus on completing their chosen credentials. Visit www.GIA.edu/scholarships for more information on scholarships, eligibility, how to apply and required documents.

California Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)

The State of California established the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by a student in an educational program at a qualifying institution, who is or was a California resident while enrolled, or was enrolled in a residency program, if the student enrolled in the institution, prepaid tuition and suffered an economic loss. Unless relieved of the obligation to do so, you must pay the state-imposed assessment for the STRF, or it must be paid on your behalf, if you are a student in an educational program, who is a California resident, or are enrolled in a residency program and prepay all or part of your tuition.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and you are not required to pay the STRF assessment, if you are not a California resident, or are not enrolled in a residency program.

It is important that you keep copies of your enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, or any other information that documents the amount paid to the school. Questions regarding the STRF may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education: physical address: 1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 225, Sacramento, CA 95834; mailing address: P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818; www.bppe.ca.gov; phone +1 916 574 8900 or +1 888 370 7589; fax +1 916 263 1897.

To be eligible for STRF, you must be a California resident or enrolled in a residency program, prepaid tuition, paid or deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

1. The institution, a location of the institution or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and you did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the Bureau or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the Bureau.
2. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution within the 120-day period before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, or were enrolled in an educational program within the 120-day period before the program was discontinued.
3. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution more than 120 days before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, in an educational program offered by the institution as to which the Bureau determined there was a significant decline in the quality or value of the program more than 120 days before closure.
4. The institution has been ordered to pay a refund by the Bureau but has failed to do so.
5. The institution has failed to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federal student loan program as required by law, or has failed to pay or reimburse

proceeds received by the institution in excess of tuition and other costs.

6. You have been awarded restitution, a refund or other monetary award by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of this chapter by an institution or representative of an institution, but have been unable to collect the award from the institution.
7. You sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of your student loans and have an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans.

To qualify for STRF reimbursement, the application must be received within four (4) years from the date of the action or event that made the student eligible for recovery from STRF.

A student whose loan is revived by a loan holder or debt collector after a period of non-collection may, at any time, file a written application for recovery from STRF for the debt that would have otherwise been eligible for recovery. If it has been more than four (4) years since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original four (4) year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number.

Each qualifying institution shall collect an assessment of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or is enrolled in a residency program. For institutional charges of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less, the assessment is zero dollars (\$0.00).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 94803, 94877 and 94923, Education Code. Reference: Section 94923, 94924 and 94925, Education Code.

Definitions:

(a) "California resident" means a person who resides in California at the time the enrollment agreement is signed or a person who receives lessons at a California mailing address from qualifying institution offering distance education.

(b) "Closed institution" means an institution at which a closure has occurred.

(c) "Economic loss" means pecuniary loss, as defined in section 94923 of the Code. Economic loss also includes any "educational opportunity loss."

(d) "Educational opportunity loss" means a loss of eligibility for third-party payer benefits that is suffered by a California resident or a person enrolled in a California residency program because they are unable to complete an educational program due to the institution's closure or due to the institution losing its eligibility to receive third-party payer benefits and no replacement of that benefit is available from the third-party payer.

(e) "Fund" means the Student Tuition Recovery Fund.

(f) "Prepaid" describes any amount of money that an institution accepts in advance of rendering educational services.

(g) "Qualifying institution" is an approved institution that is subject to the provisions of Article 14, commencing with section 94923 of the Code, including out-of-state institutions registered with the Bureau pursuant to section 94801.5 of the Code.

(h) "Residency Program" means an educational program as defined in section 94837 of the Code at qualifying institution of which some portion of the instruction occurs as direct instruction as defined in section 71715(c).

(i) "STRF" means Student Tuition Recovery Fund.

(j) "Student Tuition Recovery Fund assessment" or "STRF assessment" means a state-imposed charge to fund this chapter that is required to be paid by a California resident student or a student enrolled in a residency program, who pays tuition to an institution.

(k) "Teach-out institution" means the institution offering a teach-out to a former student of an institution that has ceased to operate.

(l) "Third-party payer" means an employer, government program or other entity that pays a student's charges when no separate agreement for the repayment of the charges exists between the third-party payer and the student.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 94803, 94877 and 94923, Education Code. Reference: Sections 94923, 94924 and 94925, Education Code.

Cancellation, Withdrawal and Refund Policies

GIA's cancellation, withdrawal and refund policies for GIA's Carlsbad campus are explained in detail in this section and in your enrollment agreement. If you have questions, contact GIA admissions at admissions@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4001 or +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4001 (Toll-free US/Canada).

Cancellation of Enrollment

Students have the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges paid through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later. Cancellation is effective on the date GIA receives the written notice of cancellation.

Students must submit their cancellation notice in writing using the *Cancellation and Withdrawal Form* on the My GIA Student Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> or by sending an email to an admissions representative at admissions@gia.edu.

A student's registration/enrollment will be cancelled by the school with a full refund of institutional charges for failure to i) sign the enrollment agreement, ii) start the program ("no-show") and/or iii) make a required payment at the time of registration and prior to the class start date.

Withdrawal of Enrollment

Students may withdraw from a program of enrollment any time after the cancellation period and prior to taking a final examination. Withdrawal is effective on the date GIA receives the student's written notice.

Students must submit their withdrawal notice in writing using the *Cancellation and Withdrawal Form* on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> OR by sending an email to the dean of students at deanstudents@gia.edu.

A student will be administratively withdrawn if they fail to return from a leave of absence, do not maintain satisfactory academic progress, or are otherwise dismissed due to lack of attendance or violation of a GIA policy.

A grade of SWD is recorded on the student's academic record and any refund is calculated according to GIA's refund policy below. See "Refund Policy" on page 43

Refund Policy

Students receive a full refund, 100% of the amount paid for institutional charges, if notice of cancellation is made through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later. GIA does not charge or retain a deposit or application fee.

Withdrawn students who have completed 60% or less of the period of attendance receive a pro-rata refund of nonfederal student financial aid program moneys paid for institutional charges. The CA STRF assessment fee is non-refundable in the case of withdrawal. See "Pro-Rata Tuition Calculation" on page 44

Unused books and materials, that are undamaged, are eligible for full refund upon inspection by GIA. Books and materials that are used or not returned in salable condition are not eligible for refund. Optional books and materials are subject to the return and exchange policy for the GIA Store. <https://store.gia.edu/pages/gia-return-and-exchange-policy>

For financial aid recipients who have completed less than 60% of their program, a Return of Title IV calculation is done to determine the percentage of the award earned and may result in returning funds and may cause the student to owe a balance to the institution. See "Return of Title IV Funds" on page 45

Students who obtain a loan to pay for an educational program have the responsibility to repay the full borrowed amount of the loan, plus interest, less the amount of any refund returned to the lender. Scholarship recipients are subject to the refund policy described in their acceptance letter.

Any credit balance on a student's account after unearned aid and scholarship funds have been returned, will be refunded within 45 days of the date GIA received the notice of cancellation or withdrawal, or the last date of attendance, whichever is later.

Tuition Refund Chart

Last Day of Attendance	Tuition Refund
Within seven days of enrollment or before the end of the first class day, whichever is later	100%
On or before 60% of the scheduled instructional hours	Pro-rata %
After 60% of the scheduled instructional hours	No refund

Pro-Rata Tuition Calculation

GIA uses the student's last day of attendance to calculate the pro-rata tuition amount owed as follows.

1. **Scheduled Instructional Hours %** = Total program hours divided by the scheduled instructional hours through the student's last day of attendance
2. **Pro-Rata Tuition** = Total tuition x percent of scheduled instructional hours

Refund Calculation Example

A student withdraws from a 780 clock-hour program. There were 312 scheduled instruction hours through the student's last day of attendance. Program charges include \$23,400.00 (tuition), \$1,624.87 (books, materials, sales tax) and \$62.50 (CA STRF fee). The student has paid in full and retained all books and materials.

Amount Retained by GIA

Scheduled Instructional Hours % = $312 / 780 = 0.40$
 Pro-Rata Tuition Amount = $\$23,400 \times 0.40 = \$9,360$
 Books, Materials and Sales Tax = \$1,624.87
 CA STRF Fee (non-refundable) = \$62.50
 $\$9,360 + \$1,624.87 + \$62.50 = \$10,984.87$

Refund Amount

\$25,087.87 (paid by student)
 - \$10,984.87 (retained by GIA) = \$14,102.00

Definitions

These terms have the following meanings as applied within GIA's cancellation, withdrawal and refund policies:

- **Cancellation:** Student's enrollment is terminated through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later.
- **Cancellation or Withdrawal Date:** The date GIA receives the student's written notice of cancellation or withdrawal or is administratively withdrawn according to policy
- **Enrollment Agreement:** A written contract between a student and institution concerning an educational program.
- **Enrollment:** Execution of an enrollment agreement; enrollment is effective on the date it is signed by both the student and the GIA authorized representative.
- **First Class Day:** First day the student is scheduled to attend a class session.
- **First Class Session:** First part of a class day that the institute conducts instruction in a particular subject.
- **Institutional Charges:** All charges for tuition, required books and materials, CA STRF fee and other educationally-related expenses assessed by the institution
- **Instructional Hours:** The hours in which clock hours are scheduled.
- **Last Day of Attendance:** The last day the student attended class as determined by GIA's attendance records.
- **Period of Attendance:** The entire educational program if measured in clock hours.
- **Withdrawal:** When a student's enrollment is terminated after the cancellation period but prior to taking a final examination (either the student notifies GIA of intent to withdraw, ceases attendance or is dismissed due to a violation of GIA policy).

Return of Title IV Funds

Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) refers to the recalculation of funds required when a recipient of federal financial aid is withdrawn from school after beginning attendance. Title IV funds include: Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Direct Loans and Direct PLUS Loans.

The calculation compares the amount of Title IV aid the recipient earned to the amount disbursed and determines whether funds must be returned, or if the student is eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement.

The requirements for the return of Title IV funds are separate from any refund policy that GIA may have. A student may still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges and GIA may charge a student for any Title IV funds the school is required to return.

If you are considering withdrawal, contact the financial aid office contact us at +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4005 or financialaid@gia.edu to advise you on your specific situation. See "Withdrawal of Enrollment" on page 43 for the requirements and procedures to officially withdraw from school.

For general questions about Title IV funds, visit <https://studentaid.gov> or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at +1 800 4 FEDAID (+1 800 433 3243). TTY users may call +1 800 730 8913.

Calculation of Earned Aid

Although a student's aid is posted to their account at the start of each payment period, a student earns the funds as they complete the period. If a student withdraws during a payment period or period of enrollment, the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned up to that point is determined by the US Department of Education's Return of Title IV Funds formula.

A student that completed more than 60% of the payment period or period of enrollment has earned 100% of the funds they were scheduled to receive, during the period.

If the student completed 60% or less, a pro rata schedule is used to determine the amount funds earned at the time of withdrawal. For example, if a student completed 30% of their payment period or period of enrollment, they earned 30% of the aid they received.

If the student received more aid than the amount earned, excess funds must be returned by GIA and/or the student. If the student received less aid than the amount earned, the student may be able to receive those additional funds in a post-withdrawal disbursement.

Return of Unearned Funds (Overpayment)

If the student, or parent, receives excess funds that must be returned, GIA must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of the student's institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of his or her funds, or the entire amount of excess funds.

Title IV funds are repaid in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan Program
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loan Program
3. Federal PLUS Loan Program
4. Federal Pell Grant Program
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Program
6. Any other Title IV program
7. Other federal, state, private, or institutional student financial aid programs

Any unearned grant funds the student has received is called an overpayment. The maximum amount of grant overpayment the student must repay is equal to half the funds the student received or was scheduled to receive. A student does not have to repay an overpayment if the original amount is \$50 or less.

The student must make arrangements with GIA, or the Department of Education, to return unearned grant funds. GIA must return this amount even if GIA did not keep this amount of the student's Title IV program funds. If GIA is not required to return all of the excess funds, the student must return the remaining amount.

Any federal direct loan funds that must be returned must be repaid by the student (or parent) in accordance with the terms of their repayment plan.

If aid has been used for living expenses, GIA will prorate the amount the student is entitled to keep based on the percentage of the program completed. If the aid received exceeds the prorated cost of living amount, the student will be billed for the excess.

Post-withdrawal Disbursement

If a student did not receive all of the funds that they earned, the student may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement.

GIA may automatically use all or a portion of the student's post-withdrawal disbursement of grant funds for tuition and fees. GIA needs the student's permission to use the post-withdrawal grant disbursement for all other school charges. If a student does not give his or her permission, the student will be offered the funds. It may be in the student's best interest to allow GIA to keep the funds to reduce the student's debt to GIA.

Students who have not completed the first 30 days of their program before they withdraw will not receive any Federal Direct Loan funds they would have received had they remained enrolled past the 30th day.

If a student's post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, GIA must get the student's permission before it can disburse them. The student may choose to decline some or all of the loan funds so that they do not incur additional debt.

Return of Veterans Benefits

Effective January 5, 2021, section 1019 of Public Law 116-315 of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs made schools financially liable, instead of the student, for payments directly paid to a school. When a school debt is created, the Regional Processing Office (RPO) of jurisdiction sends a letter notifying the school of the overpayment with details regarding the associated student, debt amount and the reason for the creation of the debt. Students may owe tuition to GIA based on the amount of debt calculated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. GIA will coordinate the return of any debt calculated to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In some instances, students may owe tuition to GIA and/or owe other debts issued from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Note: Funds provided from the Department of Defense or the Veterans Administration and received by service members, reservists and family members who stop attending due to service obligations are refunded in the same manner as Title IV federal funds.

Student Services

Our student services staff, advisors and librarians provide a variety of services and resources to help ensure your success as a student and graduate of GIA.

Housing and Transportation

GIA does not have dormitory facilities. There are many rental and hotel opportunities within close proximity of the campus. Start your search about 45 days before your arrival and be sure to use a reputable third-party provider.

It is important that you thoroughly research your options before taking residence. If renting a room or sharing an apartment, your due diligence should include interviewing the renter and any occupants as well as doing an Internet search of the address and of any individuals living in the home.

Current housing costs around Carlsbad campus can range from \$2,500 to \$3,100 per month or more for apartments. Hotel stays can average \$3,600 per month or \$120 to \$375 per night excluding taxes and other fees.

GIA's campus has parking for more than 1,000 vehicles, electric car charging stations, bike racks and access to public transportation. Public transportation to the Carlsbad campus is limited and although bicycles are an alternative, a car is recommended. Visit www.sdmts.com/transit-services for more information on public transportation.

Contact student services at studentservices@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7304 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7304 for inquiries or assistance.

Food and Beverage

Students have several choices for meals, snacks and beverages on campus or from a variety of nearby off-campus locations.

GIA's cafe is open from 7 am to 2 pm for breakfast and lunch. Students can order onsite or online for pick-up at the cafe. Refrigerators and microwaves are available for students who prefer to bring their own food. Ample seating is available in the cafe and student lobby, outdoor seating is also available. Self-service vending on campus offer snacks, small lunch items and various bottled drinks options.

Health Care and Insurance

GIA does not provide health insurance for students. All students are strongly urged to maintain medical insurance coverage. Any medical needs, services and expenses are the student's personal responsibility.

Contact us at studentservices@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7304 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7304 for information about companies that provide medical insurance or to help you locate medical professionals in the area.

TELUS Health Student Support

Through TELUS Health, GIA provides students with immediate and/or ongoing confidential, 24-hour multi-lingual support for any school, health, or general life concern at no cost. You can call or chat with a counselor directly from your phone, mobile device or computer.

Phone: +1 866 743 7732

Website: <https://myssp.app/us/home>

TELUS App:



Disability Services and Accommodation

Our dean's office provides support services, resources and accommodations for students with verified disabilities. Our belief is that disability is not a limitation, but rather an indication of perseverance, strength and determination in accomplishing all life endeavors. Our intention is to promote access, equity and inclusion; to instill a true sense of belonging at GIA for students with disabilities.

GIA is committed to ensuring equal access to its programs and activities for qualified individuals with disabilities and will make efforts to accommodate those with special requirements or needs by granting reasonable accommodations where appropriate. See "[Academic Progress Policies](#)" on page 53 for the details and procedures for requesting accommodation.

Education Advising and Tutoring

GIA's education advisor is available to meet with students who wish to discuss their academic progress and develop strategies to help remove any barrier to their success. We recommend students who struggling academically meet with the advisor early on as well as those who are on an advising or probation status.

GIA's tutoring program is designed to foster student-driven success, promote independent learning and provide academic support through an encouraging, engaging and constructive environment. The education advisor or tutor provides one-on-one support to students who are seeking additional academic help in written coursework outside of school hours. Outside of specific course material support, the program is focused on helping students learn how to be stronger students, teaching participants how to efficiently take notes, prepare for assessments and become better test takers.

For information, or to schedule an appointment, contact us at edadvising@gia.edu or call +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4382 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 4382.

International Student Advising

GIA's international student advisor provides specialized support to international students by helping them prepare for and adjust to living and studying in the U.S.

The advisor or another designated school official (DSO) provides information about important immigration-related issues and specific assistance with the student visa and other applicable immigration application processes. The advisor also helps students get oriented to life on campus and provide other assistance such as travel, health care and insurance, housing and obtaining a driver's license.

The international student advisor is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT at +1 760 603 4001 or by email at intladvisor@gia.edu

Computer and Internet Access

The campus has wireless Internet access available at no charge. The library has a computer lab available for student use during operating hours on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Career Services

As a GIA student or graduate, you enjoy a professional affiliation with GIA. Career services advisors offer individualized support for students and graduates in all stages of their careers to help them develop a personal strategy according to their educational and career goals.

The career services department provides additional resources and hosted events to help start or advance your career such as the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center, Career Fair Presented by GIA and the Job Seekers Handbook. Information on career advising and other services is detailed in the sections below.

For questions, information, or to schedule an appointment, contact us at careerservices@gia.edu or call +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4450 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 4450.

Career Advising

Career services advisors offer one-on-one appointments to provide guidance and assistance on topics such as:

Education and career goals. Advisors can help you identify possible careers paths and the education and experience required to meet your goals. They'll help you consider your prior education and experience, interests, strengths and transferable skills.

Resume and cover letter. Advisors can help you prepare your resume and cover letter, providing tips on how to best highlight your strengths, experience and education so you stand out.

Interview preparation. Advisors provide guidance on how to research and prepare for an interview, consider the questions that may be asked and how you would answer them and how to conduct yourself during the meeting. Students can also practice interviewing with mock interviews available on the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center.

Job search. Advisors provide guidance and resources to conduct your job search using various job sites and platforms, LinkedIn and the GIA's Gem & Jewelry Career Center. You will need to meet the legal requirements of working in any prospective employer's country.

Advisors also offer "lunch and learns" on various career-focused topics throughout the year. Students may bring and eat their lunch during sessions.

Job Seeker's Handbook

The Job Seeker's Handbook is a guide to starting your job search in the gem and jewelry industry. It includes sample resumes and cover letters, tips on job searches, interviewing and more. We encourage you to use it as you begin your professional journey. Download or view the handbook at www.GIA.edu/gem-careers

GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center

The GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center is a premier career platform and online job board exclusively for the gem and jewelry industry. Employers from every sector of the jewelry industry list opportunities with us, including retailers, wholesalers, design houses, auctioneers and many others.

As a job seeker, you will be able to customize your job search and create a full-featured profile that will help you market yourself to employers. You can also access tools to help you prepare for interviews. There is no charge to use this service. You can access the career center on our website or download the App.

Website: www.GIA.edu/gem-job
Simplicity App:



Career Fair – Presented by GIA

GIA hosts annual Career Fairs in Carlsbad, London and New York. As the jewelry industry's largest recruiting event, Career Fair attracts the industry's top employers including retailers, manufacturers, laboratories and wholesalers.

Whether you're just starting out or looking for a career change, Career Fair gives you the opportunity to meet with recruiters, collect job leads and network. Additionally, industry members offer one-on-one coaching sessions for students and graduates. For the latest information, visit www.GIA.edu/career-fair

Guest Speaker Series

GIA's Carlsbad campus is pleased to offer the Guest Speaker Series to inspire and enhance your educational life on campus. Each month, practicing professionals share their expertise on subjects such as diamond and gemstone treatments, jewelry manufacturing and design, field gemology and more. The series, free to both students and alumni, exposes you to different career paths and provides perspective on how skills, knowledge, abilities apply to the

workplace. If you are unable to attend in person, the series is often live-streamed and posted on social media.

Library and Learning Resources

Library and Information Center

The Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center is the largest library of its kind housing a growing collection of over 65,000 books, 1,000 periodical titles in various languages and 2,000 videos and other media. The collections cover topics on gemstones, minerals, lapidary, geology, mineralogy, jewelry manufacturing and history and are searchable in the Library's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) via the library's section of the GIA website www.GIA.edu/library

Lending library. Students may check-out print materials while they are on campus. The lending library consists of over 16,000 volumes, 124 current subscriptions and approximately 2,000 videos.

Archives. The Library's archives and rare book collection has works dating back to 1496. Print materials in the archives are accessible by appointment only. Works no longer under copyright (pre-1926) are being digitized with over 1,000 titles freely available on Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/gialibrary>.

eBooks. Students and alumni may access the contemporary e-book collection on the Libby app at <https://libbyapp.com>. Contact us at library@gia.edu for a username and password.

Website. The library section of the GIA website offers additional resources, from recommended book lists to listings of gemstone pricing guides and appraisal associations. www.GIA.edu/library

Reference service. The library is the first point of reference for gem and jewelry professionals. Whether in person or by phone or email, librarians answer questions from scientists, jewelers, gemologists, students, researchers, authors and the media from around the world. They provide quick reference information on topics including treatments, laboratory-grown gems, business management, jewelry history and more.

Hours and contact. The Library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday. Contact us at library@gia.edu, +1 760 603 4046 or +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4046.

GIA Museum Collection

GIA's Carlsbad campus is home to the GIA Museum, which houses an extraordinary collection of gems, gem minerals, jewelry, objets d'art and historical cutting equipment to enhance the student learning experience. Displays throughout campus complement in-class stone sets and allow gemology students to observe additional specimens of stones and jewelry that design students may use for sources of inspiration in their coursework.

Education Stone Sets

Our education stone sets are a significant learning resource used by students to gain hands-on, practical experience in diamond grading, gem identification and colored stone grading. Each series of stone sets is specifically integrated with the curriculum at the appropriate learning point. Each stone is carefully selected to ensure students are exposed to a wide variety of natural, lab-grown, and treated gem species, varieties and qualities they might encounter once employed in the trade.

Blackboard Learning Management System

Students have 24/7 online access to the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS). Gemology students access their curriculum in a media-rich online format with embedded videos and animations to supplement learning, as well as an online glossary and links to additional learning resources such as additional videos, supplemental reading, PDF charts and references. For all On Campus students, the LMS provides access to the GIA Library and Museum's digital resources, including eBooks, audio books and videos, digital periodicals, the digitized rare book collection, the library lecture schedule, virtual museum exhibits and the Gübelin Gem Project (a repository of data on over 400 gemstones).

GIA Alumni Collective™

The GIA Alumni Collective is here to provide students and graduates with diverse opportunities, insights and connections that fuel their development, progress and passion at every point of their career. Contact us at alumni@gia.edu

Membership. After successfully completing a GIA course or program, graduates become part of our alumni community, the GIA Alumni Collective, an elite global network with over 155,000 members across 55 chapters worldwide. The GIA Alumni Collective connects graduates to an open, inspirational and passionate community that aims to help graduates cultivate a lifetime of success.

The online community. GIA alumni are key influencers throughout the gem and jewelry industry. Our GIA Alumni Collective online community allows GIA graduates to communicate with like-minded gem and jewelry professionals and display their credentials in our Alumni Directory. Not only can GIA graduates view and participate in virtual and in-person events in their local areas, they can go beyond their borders and network with alumni from around the world. Register for the community at <https://collective.GIA.edu>.

Global chapters. GIA's global chapters span the globe from Manhattan to Mumbai. As a member of the GIA Alumni Collective, you have the opportunity to participate in local meetings and events that further your professional development and connect you to your gem and jewelry community. Visit <https://collective.gia.edu/global-chapters.html> to explore or join a local chapter.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic policies and procedures help ensure the quality of every student's academic experience, support the investment our graduates make in their education and help to preserve the integrity of GIA's diplomas and certificates.

Orientation Requirements

Students must complete an online and in-person orientation prior to the first day of class. Students who cannot attend the scheduled in-person orientation, should contact admissions at admissions@gia.edu as soon as possible to reschedule. Students are not allowed in class until the orientation requirements are completed.

Attendance Policy

The curriculum is intense and students are strongly encouraged not to miss any class time. Classes begin promptly at the scheduled start time. A student may not leave the classroom without advising the instructor except at scheduled breaks.

Every morning and at each break, attendance is taken and recorded in full hour increments. A student who misses *any* part of a scheduled class hour will be marked for a full hour missed.

Maximum Allowable Missed Hours

Attendance is specific to the program of enrollment as indicated in the chart below. Students are responsible for being aware of how many hours they have missed.

Program	Program Hours	Maximum Missed Hours
Graduate Gemologist	780	68*
Graduate Jeweler		
Jewelry Design & Technology		
Graduate Colored Stones	570	47
Jewelry Design	270	23
Graduate Diamonds	210	21
Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry		

* A maximum of 21 hours may be missed in the first seven weeks of the program.

Students who approach the maximum allowable hours are given a courtesy warning. Students who accumulate six hours less than the maximum allowed are placed on Attendance Probation. See "Advising and Probation" on page 54. Students who miss more than the maximum number of hours allowed are dismissed. See "Dismissal Policy" on page 55.

Clock Hours

"Clock hours" refers to number of scheduled instructional hours for each program. One clock hour equals a minimum of 50 instructional minutes within a 60-minute time period. The definition of a clock hour is separate from, and does not apply to, GIA's attendance policy.

Make-Up Hours

The attendance policy allows for a limited number of excused missed hours; make-up hours are not available. Accommodation is made for an approved religious observance. Accommodation requests are to be submitted to the dean's office for consideration using the form located on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>.

Homework Policy

Homework must be submitted by the scheduled due date and time indicated on the class schedule. Students who do not submit homework on time receive a score of zero.

Make-Up Work

Students have ample time to make-up missed practical work during regularly scheduled lab hours. A student may be approved to make-up a missed quiz or homework assignment for extenuating circumstances such as injury or illness, death in the family, or other circumstance determined by the institution. Requests are to be submitted to the dean's office for consideration using the form located on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>

Classroom Policies

Students are required to adhere to the following policies:

- Use of mobile phones and other devices in class is strictly prohibited. These devices must be set on silent and placed in a designated location. Devices may be used if the student leaves the classroom.
- Eating is not permitted in classrooms. Beverages in closed containers are allowed.
- Non-GIA issued tools are not allowed in the classroom. Exceptions may be granted for safety or ergonomic considerations if approved through the dean's office. GIA is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal tools.
- Keycards may not be taken from any classroom.
- Blank or completed worksheets, quizzes or exams may not be taken out of the classroom.
- Projects and materials may not be taken out of the classroom without the instructor's permission.
- Students must work individually unless the instructor directs otherwise.

Program-specific policies may be provided and reviewed during orientation.

Testing Policy

Testing measures a student's comprehension of the curriculum and mastery of skills. The following rules apply:

- Students are strongly advised not to miss a scheduled quiz, test or exam. Those not taken on the scheduled date and time receive a score of zero.
- Quizzes, tests and exams in progress may be declared null and void if a classroom must be evacuated for any reason. The test will be rescheduled as necessary.
- Quizzes, tests and exams must be completed within the specified time limit.
- All quizzes, tests and exams are closed-book unless the instructor indicates otherwise.
- All quiz, test and exam submissions are final.
- Reviews of specific exam questions are only provided to gemology students who do not pass.
- Students with English as a second language may use a printed English translation dictionary, but only after it is examined by the instructor. Electronic translators may not be used.
- Unauthorized electronic devices may not be used during testing.
 - Mobile devices must be turned off and placed in a designated location.
 - Cameras and other recording devices are not allowed.
 - Standard, non-programmable calculators are allowed.
 - In some cases, GIA may provide electronic devices; if so, students must follow instructor's directions.

Grading System

GIA uses a Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading system. Final grades are assigned and recorded in the student's permanent academic record as follows.

Grade	Definition
P (Pass)	75% and higher and met the graduation requirements
NP (No Pass)	74% or less and failure to meet the graduation requirements
SWD (Student Withdrawal)	Student was withdrawn from their program of enrollment after the cancellation period.
INC (Incomplete)	This is a temporary grade that is converted to P, NP or SWD based on the definition of these grades. Students who fail to complete their coursework within the agreed-upon time receive a final grade of NP.

Grading Policy

Final grades are awarded to each student, in each program, within two business days of the end date.

Assignments, quizzes and exams completed in Blackboard are graded immediately upon submission. Practical assignments, quizzes, tests and exams are typically graded within two business days. Students can access grades and monitor their progress throughout their program in the Blackboard LMS at <https://blackboard.gia.edu>

Student Identity Verification

GIA establishes that the student who registers in a program is the same who participates in and completes the program by one or more of the following methods:

- Collecting a copy of a government-issued photo ID or passport
- Using a secure login and password to complete written assignments, quizzes and exams
- Taking and recording attendance

Academic Integrity Policy

GIA highly values academic integrity, meaning an honest representation of one's own work. While we also value the benefit of collaborative education where students are able to work with and learn from one another, there is a line between collaboration and academic dishonesty. Students who violate this policy are subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following:

Cheating. Copying another student's work or using unauthorized aids during an examination, test or quiz or to complete a project, assignment or worksheet. Examples of unauthorized aids include written notes, mobile phone or other device, AI, the Internet and homework/test/quiz sharing or exchange sites.

Plagiarism. Copying work or ideas, including but not limited to the use of electronic aids and misrepresenting them as one's own.

Falsification. Making up fictitious information or altering records for the purpose of misrepresentation.

Facilitation. Helping another student to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify information. Some examples include:

- knowingly allowing another student to copy your work
- sharing or exchanging quiz, test, exam or assignment questions and/or answers with another student, on a site that may be searched by others, or referring another student to those sites
- copying or reproducing keycards or quiz, test, exam or assignment questions by any means
- unauthorized possession of practical assignments or projects

The failure of a student to report known or suspected cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty is also considered a violation of this policy.

Academic Progress Policies

GIA monitors each student's academic progress to ensure they are moving toward successful completion of their program. Students receive progress reports at scheduled benchmarks. Throughout their program, students can monitor their progress in the Blackboard LMS at <https://blackboard.gia.edu> or request a conference with their instructor.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

For 780 clock-hour programs (Graduate Gemologist, Graduate Jeweler, Jewelry Design & Technology), SAP is evaluated at the midpoint of the program. This corresponds to the end of the payment period for federal financial aid recipients.

Students must maintain a cumulative average score of 75% or higher, rounded up to the nearest 1%, on all coursework including homework, practical assignments, quizzes and tests as well as minimum completion requirements for any practical work as specified in the course syllabus.

Withdrawal (SWD) and Incomplete (INC) grades are considered in cumulative grading standards and as attempted hours in maximum time-frame measures.

All students who fail to meet the SAP requirement at the midpoint of the program are placed on Academic Probation, notified in writing and issued an Academic Improvement Plan. See "Advising and Probation" on page 54. Students receiving federal financial aid who fail to meet the SAP requirements are placed on a Financial Aid Warning status which is equivalent to Academic Probation. Students who do not meet the terms of their Academic Improvement Plan are dismissed. See "Dismissal Policy" on page 55.

If it is not mathematically possible for a student to return to good standing within the required timeframe, they are dismissed.

Institutional Academic Progress Standards

In addition to the SAP for 780 clock-hour programs, all On Campus students are held to academic standards evaluated at benchmarks specified in the course syllabus. Students who do not meet the academic standards specified in their syllabus are placed on Academic Advising, notified in writing and issued an Academic Improvement Plan. See "Advising and Probation" on page 54. Students who do not meet the conditions of their Academic Improvement Plan are dismissed. See "Dismissal Policy" on page 55.

If it is not mathematically possible for a student to return to good standing within the required timeframe, they are dismissed.

Maximum Timeframe

Students must complete their program within a maximum timeframe not exceeding 150% of the published program length, measured in calendar time and clock hours. Additionally, a student is ineligible for federal aid when it becomes mathematically impossible to complete their program within 150% of the published program length. The days that a student is on an approved LOA is excluded from the maximum timeframe measurement.

Extended Lab Hours

GIA may schedule additional lab hours for gemology students who are not meeting academic progress standards, or for Graduate Jeweler students who need additional time for project completion.

Advising and Probation

Students who do not meet academic, attendance or behavior standards may be placed on an advising or probation status. The purpose of this is to i) formally notify students that their performance does not meet the standards, ii) set goals for improvement and iii) provide guidelines and a reasonable amount of time to meet those standards.

Academic Advising

Students who do not meet institutional academic standards are placed on Academic Advising and issued an Academic Improvement Plan. The student's progress is monitored by the instructor and the dean's office. If the student meets all conditions by the date specified in their plan, their academic status is returned to good standing. Students who do not meet the conditions of their plan are dismissed.

Academic Probation

Students enrolled in 780 clock-hours programs who fail to meet the satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements at the midpoint of their program are placed on Academic Probation, notified in writing and issued an Academic Improvement Plan. If the student meets all conditions by the date specified in their plan, their academic status is returned to good standing. Students who do not meet the conditions of their plan are dismissed.

Attendance Probation

Students who accumulate six hours less than the maximum hours allowed are placed on Attendance Probation and notified in writing. Students who accumulate more than the maximum allowed hours are dismissed.

Behavioral Probation

Students who do not comply with the Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior may be placed on Behavioral Probation and notified in writing. Students who do not meet the terms of their probation are dismissed.

Leave of Absence Policy

Students enrolled in any On Campus program may request a leave of absence (LOA) at any time during their studies with proper cause and supporting documentation. An LOA is approved for a documented family emergency, serious illness or for active military duty. GIA may also approve an LOA for involuntary reasons such as national or state emergency, pandemic, or other extenuating circumstances. Contact the dean's office at deanstudents@gia.edu for additional information.

A leave will be approved if GIA determines that i) there is a reasonable expectation that the student will return, ii) the request complies with this policy and iii) there is space available for the student to return to the program within the maximum allowable leave time. If approved, an addendum to the student's enrollment agreement is generated.

Maximum Length. The maximum length of time for an LOA is 180 calendar days. A student may be granted more than one leave, but combined cannot exceed 180 calendar days within a 12-month period. Students must submit any request to extend an approved LOA in writing to the dean's office prior to the expiration of their original LOA.

Requesting Leave. The LOA request must be submitted in writing to the dean's office in advance. A request form is available on the My Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>. The request must be signed and dated by the student and include the reason for the request. If unforeseen circumstances prevent a student from providing a prior written request, GIA may approve the student's leave and collect the written, signed and dated request at a later date. Students who do not select an available return date within five business days of submitting the LOA request will be withdrawn.

Returning from leave. Students are placed back into the program at a point determined to ensure their success, generally students are asked to repeat two weeks. There is no fee for repeat class time. Students may return earlier from a leave given class availability. Students who do not return as agreed are withdrawn. A final grade of SWD is posted to the student's academic record and any refund is calculated according to the terms of the student's enrollment agreement.

Active Military Duty. Any student called to active military duty will be promptly readmitted in accordance with the requirements under Title 34 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. The cumulative length of the leave and of all previous absences from the school for service may not exceed five years, except where the obligated period of service exceeds five years or as specified in the federal regulations. Students called to active military duty should contact the dean's office to discuss their individual situation.

Federal Student Aid Recipients. An LOA may have an impact on federal aid eligibility. Prior to requesting leave, students must meet with a financial aid advisor to evaluate their individual situation and explain the effect that a failure to return from an LOA has on any loan repayment terms (including the expiration of the grace period for repayment).

International Students. An LOA may impact student visa status. Prior to requesting leave, students must meet with the international student advisor or other designated school official to evaluate their individual situation.

Dismissal Policy

GIA may terminate a student's enrollment for academic, attendance or behavioral reasons at any time. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Violation of Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior or other institutional policies
- Failure to meet academic progress standards
- Failure to abide by the attendance policy
- Cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty
- Offensive, disruptive, threatening, harassing, bullying or insubordinate behavior
- Stealing school property or the personal property of any individual
- Use, possession or sale of alcohol, illegal drugs or controlled substances anywhere on school premises
- Possession of firearms or other weapons on school premises
- Providing false information and/or willfully omitting information on any GIA document or form

- Conducting any activities that harm the name, reputation or property of GIA

Upon dismissal, a final grade of SWD is posted to the student's academic record and any refund is calculated according to GIA's Refund Policy. International students who are dismissed are in violation of their M-1 student visa and must meet with the international student advisor or other designated school official to discuss their status. Students receiving federal aid must meet with a financial aid advisor to discuss their individual situation.

Appeal for Readmission

Students who are dismissed must submit a formal appeal in order to be readmitted into any GIA program, course or class. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee readmission, which is at the sole discretion of GIA.

Appeal Process

Students must submit an *Appeal for Readmission Form* and any additional supporting documentation to the Admissions Committee for review. The director of enrollment services, or their delegate, will notify the student of the committee's decision within 10 business days of the receipt of the appeal.

If approved, the student is notified of any readmission terms or conditions. If a student was dismissed for failure to meet academic progress, the student is no longer eligible for Federal Financial Aid.

A student may submit a maximum of three appeals. If a student is dismissed for behavior reasons and the first appeal is denied, subsequent appeals will only be considered following a two-year waiting period.

Graduation Requirements

To maintain enrollment, students must continue to meet academic progress, attendance and behavioral standards throughout their program. In order to graduate and earn their credential, students must satisfy the minimum academic requirements shown on the following tables. A final grade of Pass (P) is required to complete a program. All tuition and fees must be paid in full and all stones, equipment, library books and materials must be returned in good condition prior to graduation. Certificates and diplomas are not awarded until all educational and financial obligations are met.

Graduation Requirements – Gemology

Credential	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Number of Attempts
Graduate Gemologist Diploma		
Must meet all graduation requirements for the Graduate Diamonds and Graduate Colored Stones Diplomas listed below		
Graduate Diamonds Diploma		
Assignments and Quizzes	75% cumulative average	—
Practical Stone Count	100% of minimum requirement	—
Diamond Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
Diamonds & Diamond Grading Final Exam	75% score	3
Diamond Grading 5-Stone Practical Exam	75% score	3
Graduate Colored Stones Diploma		
Assignments and Quizzes	75% cumulative average	—
Practical Stone Count	100% of minimum requirement	—
Colored Stone Essentials Final Exam	75% score	3
Colored Stones Final Exam	75% score	3
Gem Identification 20-Stone Practical Exam	100% score	5

Graduation Requirements – Jewelry Arts

Credential	Minimum Requirement	Maximum Number of Attempts
Graduate Jeweler Diploma		
Homework, Projects, Quizzes	75% cumulative average	—
Final Bench Test	75% score	2
Final Written Exam	75% score	2
Jewelry Design & Technology Diploma		
Assignments, Projects, Quizzes	75% cumulative average	—
Final Exam	75% score	2
Final Design Portfolio	Submission required, including all required components	—
Final Design Exhibition	Participation required, including all required components	1
Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry Certificate		
Assignments and Quizzes	75% cumulative average	—
Final Exam	75% score	2
Final CAD Exhibition	Participation required, including all required components	1
Jewelry Design Certificate		
Unit I Design Assignments	100% completed with passing score	—
Unit II Design Assignments	75% completed with passing score	—
Quizzes	75% score average	1
Final Practical Exam	75% score	2
Final Written Exam	75% score	2
Final Design Exhibition	Participation required, including all required components	1

Student Records

The care and protection of applicant, student and graduate data is of utmost importance. GIA's Student Privacy Notice, found at www.GIA.edu/student-privacy-notice, describes the policies and practices regarding our processing, including collection, use and handling of personal data. Student records are maintained in accordance with federal, state and accreditation requirements; transcript data is retained permanently.

Contact Information

Students may update their contact information through the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu> or by contacting us at records@gia.edu

Legal Names

A person's legal first, middle and last name as it appears on official governmental documents is required for official student records and will appear on all transcripts, certificates and diplomas. Students may request to not display their middle name on their credential by contacting the student records department.

GIA requires official documentation and written authorization to make changes or corrections to the legal name listed in your student records. You must submit one document that shows your current/old name in our records and one document that shows your new/updated name. The following documentation is acceptable:

- Valid government-issued photo ID
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decree
- Naturalization documents
- Other court-issued document

Preferred Name and Pronouns

GIA recognizes that many students use a first name other than their legal first name to identify themselves. A student's preferred name will be displayed on class rosters, in the learning management system (Blackboard) and in the My GIA Education Portal. Members of the GIA community respect each other by using the personal pronouns individuals identify for themselves. Students may provide a preferred first name and pronouns at the time of admission or anytime thereafter on the My GIA Education Portal.

Letters of Good Standing

Upon request, GIA will issue a letter of good standing that are typically needed by insurance companies or other agencies as evidence of student status. A student is considered to be in good standing if they are not currently on an academic advising or probation status. GIA does not issue letters of recommendation. Contact us at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Transcripts

Current students may download an unofficial transcript on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu> Graduates may contact student records at records@gia.edu to request a copy of their unofficial transcript. These are provided at no charge.

Current students may order an official transcript from our vendor on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu>. Current students and graduates may order an official transcript directly from our vendor at www.parchment.com/u/registration/individual. There is a \$10 fee for each transcript ordered. Contact us at records@gia.edu for inquiries or further instructions.

Diplomas and Certificates

Students will receive both a printed and a digital copy of their On Campus diploma or certificate once all graduation requirements are met and the credential has been conferred. Print diplomas are mailed directly to the student's address on record. Students may update their shipping address on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu> or by emailing records@gia.edu. The student will receive a confirmation email once the print diploma or certificate has shipped and a second notification with access to their digital diploma or certificate.

Students must report in writing if a printed diploma or certificate is damaged in transit or was not received within 10 business days after receiving the shipment confirmation.

A replacement hard copy is provided at no charge if the original is damaged in transit or is not delivered within 15 business days. A photo may be required in the case of damage. In these cases, a replacement is provided at no charge and will be reshipped within 15 business days of receiving the student's written notice. For inquiries, contact us at records@gia.edu or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Diploma and Certificate Holds

Students will not receive a diploma or certificate until all academic and financial obligations are met.

Reprint Diplomas and Certificates

Reprint diplomas and certificates are \$70 and \$65 respectively. Reprint diplomas and certificates are issued in the current format and include the reissue date. All reprints bear the signatures of GIA's current school officials. To order a replacement, contact the vendor at <https://parchmentsupport.force.com> or student records at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Graduation Announcements

Graduation announcements are available upon request. Contact us at records@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Education Verification

Those wanting to confirm a GIA graduate's credentials may check the GIA Alumni Online Directory. The search results will return those graduates who have opted to have their information displayed online. Individuals may also submit a written request to verify a graduate's credentials by submitting the request form on our website located at www.GIA.edu/doc/GIA_Education_Verification-Request.pdf. For information about directory information that may be released, see "Family Educational Rights and Privacy ("FERPA")" on page 63

Academic Credentials Usage Policy

Usage guidelines apply to all current and former students of the Gemological Institute of America, Inc. and its related entities (collectively referred to as GIA).

Usage Guidelines for Academic Credentials

Academic credentials earned at GIA are respected by gem and jewelry professionals around the world. They are the internationally recognized symbol of the highest standard of education in the fields of gemology and jewelry arts.

It is appropriate and customary for recipients of GIA diplomas to signal their achievement by appending the relevant academic designation to the end of their name. It should be noted, however, that GIA alumni are required to abide by specific standards of usage.

Although the following examples do not reference every diploma offered by the Institute, they should help you determine how GIA's Usage Guidelines for Academic Credentials apply to you.

General Usage

You may reproduce and display your GIA diploma, certificate or letter of completion in its entirety. Note that when a credential is advertised, it must be used in association with the recipient's name and the advertisement must not in any way state or imply an affiliation with or endorsement by GIA.

Only the acknowledgment of a diploma or degree from GIA should be placed on business cards. Individual coursework that is completed but does not result in a diploma is best listed on resumes and curriculum vitae.

Diplomas

The following examples refer to the Graduate Gemologist (GG), Accredited Jewelry Professional or Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®), Gemologist, Jewelry Design & Technology (JDT) and Graduate Jeweler (GJ) diplomas:

- John Doe, GIA Graduate Gemologist, or John Doe, GIA GG
- Jane Doe, GIA Applied Jewelry Professional, or Jane Doe, GIA AJP
- Jane Doe, GIA Jewelry Design & Technology, or Jane Doe, GIA JDT
- John Doe, GIA Graduate Jeweler, or John Doe, GIA GJ
- Jane Doe, GIA GG, GJ

The following examples refer to the Graduate Diamonds, Graduate Colored Stones and Graduate Pearls diplomas:

- Jane Doe, GIA Diamonds Graduate
- John Doe, GIA Colored Stones Graduate
- Jane Doe, GIA Pearls Graduate

The following example refers to the Applied Jewelry Arts (AJA) diploma:

- John Doe, GIA Applied Jewelry Arts, or John Doe, GIA AJA

Employment Citations

Companies may state that they have GIA Graduate Gemologists, Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®), Accredited Jewelry Professionals, Gemologists, Graduate Jewelers, or Jewelry Design & Technology graduates on staff, provided that such statements are accurate and companies agree to cooperate with any verification that may be requested by GIA or others.

Administrative Policies

This section includes standards, policies and procedures that describe the rights and responsibilities of students.

Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior

GIA's Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior protects the rights of students and employees and ensures a safe, secure and positive learning environment for all students. GIA students are expected to behave in a professional manner and to treat others with dignity and respect at all times. Students are responsible for reading, understanding and following all GIA student policies.

Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Threatening or harassing behavior, including sexual harassment or misconduct
- Acts of retaliation against another student or GIA staff member
- Acts or threats of violence
- Possession of a firearm or other weapon on campus
- Use, sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances or alcohol
- Forgery, fraud or dishonesty
- Disruptive, insubordinate or unlawful behavior
- Academic dishonesty
- Property damage or theft
- Violation of other GIA policies

In addition to the policies published in this catalog, students are expected to adhere to policies and procedures relating to drug and alcohol abuse prevention, workplace and campus violence, discrimination, harassment and misconduct published at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information.

Students who become aware of anything that seems unsafe, improper, or illegal must report it to GIA staff immediately.

Social Media and Networking

GIA embraces the opportunities and information available to students and staff through social media such as networking sites, blogs, wikis, chat rooms and others. However, any online behavior which is brought to the attention of a school official that violates the Student Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior may be addressed under this policy.

Students are asked to use good judgment as their actions and statements have the ability to adversely affect themselves, others and the school as a whole. Posts on social media may be replicated quickly, be taken out of context and remain public for an indeterminate amount of time.

Communication between current students and GIA employees on social media may create the appearance of favoritism or conflict of interest. Therefore, staff are subject to GIA's employee social media and networking policies when communicating with students on social networks.

Violations

A designated school official will commence an investigation into allegations of violation of student code of conduct. Behavior relating to sexual harassment or misconduct will be reported to the Title IX coordinator. See "[Title IX Compliance](#)" on page 65. Students are required to cooperate with GIA representatives during an investigation. GIA considers all information collected during an investigation in the decision-making process. To maintain the safety and the integrity of its investigation, GIA reserves the right to suspend a student pending investigation. GIA will make every effort to operate on the fundamental principle of mutual trust and respect among students, faculty, staff and administration.

Sanctions

With sufficient evidence, GIA at its sole discretion may impose one or more sanctions, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Sanctions may include verbal warning, written warning, behavioral probation, or dismissal. In cases involving potential criminal conduct, GIA will determine in its sole discretion whether appropriate law enforcement or other authority must be notified.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

GIA insists on an alcohol and drug-free environment and prohibits the unlawful use, sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol on GIA premises, at GIA sponsored events or activities. It is unlawful to sell or furnish alcohol to a person under the age of 21 and a violation of this policy.

Reporting to campus under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substance that impairs one's mental or physical capacity is a violation of this policy and may result in sanctions up to and including dismissal. GIA may also discipline students for off-campus activities that include the illegal use of alcohol or drugs.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law and use of medical or recreational marijuana is not an exception to this policy. Any student using physician-prescribed medication or other medication that may impair performance in the classroom is encouraged to inform his or her instructor.

As a condition of acceptance for admission, students agree to reasonable suspicion (also referred to as "for-cause") drug testing. In the absence of extraordinary circumstances, any student who tests positive, or admits to illegal drug or alcohol use, may be dismissed from school and/or be subject to additional sanctions. Refusal to test or, in the case of urine testing, failure to produce a sample within the allotted time frame after being selected is considered the same as a positive test and may result in dismissal.

Students or any person in the school community who are aware of the use or existence of any such substances at GIA should notify a staff member immediately.

Students who believe they have a chemical dependency or substance abuse problem and who want help can learn about many helpful resources from the dean's office. GIA also offers the TELUS Health Student Support service that connects students with free, confidential emotional health and well-being support conveniently available 24/7 via mobile app, telephone and web. See "TELUS Health Student Support" on [page 47](#)

For detailed information on sanctions, federal and state laws and the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use, see complete Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Dress Code

GIA's dress code helps maintain an environment that is safe, professional, respectful and inclusive for all. Students are expected to dress in good taste and appropriate for the occasion or setting. Students are encouraged to dress comfortably with safety as an important consideration. During special occasions, such as Career Fair, business attire should be worn. Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing must not be see-through. Bare feet and clothing with derogatory or offensive messages are prohibited.

Smoking on Campus

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, or use of tobacco in any other form, is prohibited inside GIA buildings. Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor smoking areas. Please help to keep these facilities clean by placing package wrappers, cigarette butts and other debris in designated containers.

Campus Safety and Security

Keeping GIA campuses safe for our students, employees and visitors is one of our top priorities.

Clery Report. GIA's Annual Disclosure of Campus Security Policies and Crime Statistics, includes statistics on reported crimes that occurred on campus and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus for the previous three years. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies on alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, hate crimes and other matters. You can obtain a copy of this report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Lab Safety. During hands-on lab sessions, students may use chemicals, equipment and tools that can be hazardous if they are handled incorrectly or without proper precautions. Students must follow all safety guidelines and the instructor's directions when using dangerous tools or hazardous substances and wash their hands thoroughly after handling any chemicals.

Graduate Jeweler (GJ) students with shoulder-length or longer hair must tie it back. Students must avoid wearing loose clothing or clothing that leaves skin exposed, open-toed shoes and dangling accessories such as bracelets or long chains.

Student Notification of Classroom Chemical Usage

The American Chemical Society's (ACS) Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) promotes and facilitates safe practices in chemical activities and provides guidance for academic institutions. Such guidance includes asking institutions to promote awareness to individuals who may be exposed to chemicals such as gem refractive index (RI) liquid, which contains diiodomethane also known as Methylene Iodide. RI liquid is used in the Graduate Colored Stones program, the Gem Identification Lab class and the Student Workroom. You may need to exercise special precautions if you are pregnant, if you have certain medical conditions and/or if you have sensitivity or are allergic to this chemical. If you are unsure, contact your physician for advice. GIA provides protective gloves and appropriate disposal containers in each classroom. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is posted in each classroom and GIA will provide a copy on request.

Timely Warnings

GIA will issue a timely warning in the event of a Clery Act crime that occurs on or near GIA's campus that has been reported to a GIA campus security authority or local police agencies and is considered by GIA to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. Timely warnings are issued in a manner that is timely, includes information about the crime that triggered the warning and that will aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Depending on the circumstances, timely warnings may be distributed to students and employees as an emergency text, email alert, or voice message. GIA emergency evacuation alarms and procedures may also be activated. Employee and student notification information is uploaded daily to the emergency notification system's database to ensure accuracy of message delivery. The system is tested at least once each year.

For detailed information on timely warnings, see GIA's Annual Safety Report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Emergency Notifications

While the issuance of timely warnings is predicated on receiving a report of a crime as defined by the Clery Act, emergency notifications are triggered by a far broader range of potential threats — any significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, employees or visitors on campus. Emergency notifications will be made without delay, taking into account the scope of the emergency and the safety of the community. The Carlsbad campus is equipped with visual signal devices and a PA system to alert students, employees and visitors in the case of an emergency.

Additionally, students will be notified by home phone, cell phone, text message or email. When you receive an automated notification, listen carefully to the instructions; you can also visit www.GIA.edu or call +1 760 603 4000 and listen to the recorded message for further instructions and information. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date so GIA can reach you in an emergency situation. You may log on to your My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> or contact student services to make updates to your record. For detailed information on emergency notifications and evacuation procedures, see GIA's Annual Safety Report at www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Weapons

Under no circumstances are students or visitors allowed to bring firearms or other weapons to campus. Students found carrying or concealing weapons are disciplined, up to and including dismissal from GIA and referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Search and Seizure

GIA may open and inspect the contents of any student's desk, locker, computer files and software, or other furnishings, if warranted in its judgment, to ensure the health and safety of students and employees. GIA, an independent security service or law enforcement may conduct inspections or searches at any time without notice, including at times when the student is not present. In light of this policy, students should not bring to or store on GIA premises any documents, materials or other item for which they desire privacy. Personal items such as backpacks, purses, totes or other belongings may be subject to search if warranted. Failure to cooperate in any inspection can lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from GIA.

Video and Audio Monitoring

Due to the nature of its business, GIA must ensure the integrity and security of its premises and processes, including but not limited to customer service and the handling of valuable customer property. Accordingly, GIA uses both electronic video and audio monitoring in the workplace. The monitored content may include students' personal data, including without limitation video recordings, audio recordings, footage and photographs of students, casual communications near these locations and name or any other personal data revealed in video or audio recordings. We do so on the basis of compliance with a legal obligation or for our legitimate interests to protect our business, locations, workers and other parties. Students should not have an expectation of privacy in any public or work areas (GIA does not monitor restrooms or dressing areas).

Each facility has signage posted in the locations where video and audio monitoring is occurring. Please see Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice for complete disclosure.

Student Privacy Notice

GIA values the privacy of your personal data. This Student Privacy Notice ("Notice") describes GIA's policies and practices regarding our collection, use and handling of your personal data in connection with your relationship with GIA as an educational services applicant, student, or alumni. For complete disclosure and updates, please refer to the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/student-privacy-notice

If you use GIA websites other than as an educational services applicant, student, or alumni, your use of those other GIA websites and any information that you submit to us through those other GIA websites will be governed by the posted GIA website privacy notice.

For complete disclosure and updates, please refer to the GIA Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice and to the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/student-privacy-notice.

Personal Data Collection, Use and Processing

In connection with your relationship with GIA, GIA collects personal data about you (whether online, in-person, or through other means) from the following sources: directly from you; from our affiliated entities, including our

subsidiaries and branch offices; from service providers; from alumni chapters; and automatically as you visit GIA websites.

We use your Personal Data for the purposes described in further detail in the Student Privacy Notice at www.GIA.edu/privacy-notice#student-privacy-notice, including to facilitate your experience with GIA and provide you with educational services and related products. We may share your Personal Data with our GIA Affiliated Entities at www.GIA.edu/affiliated-entities and others as described in this Notice.

Providing your Personal Data is voluntary. Please note, however, that without your Personal Data, we may be unable to provide you with the educational services and related products you request.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy ("FERPA")

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords eligible students enrolled at a GIA campus located in the United States ("student," or "you") certain rights with respect to their education records. If you are enrolled or enrolling at GIA as part of the GIA Education Corporate Sponsor Program, additional terms and conditions also apply.

Student rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review your education records within 45 days after the day the Gemological Institute of America, Inc. ("GIA," or the "Institute") receives a request from you to access your education records.
2. The right to request the amendment of your education records that you believe is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of your privacy rights under FERPA.
3. The right to provide written consent before GIA discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from your education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by GIA to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Disclosures that GIA May Make Without Student Consent

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from your education records, without your consent, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.3 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials (as further detailed at www.GIA.edu/ferpa), disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information and disclosures to you, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires GIA to record the disclosure. You have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

Directory Information Definition and Opt-Out

FERPA specifies that directory information includes, without limitation, any information contained in a student's education record(s) that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. As such, directory information can be disclosed or released without your written consent. GIA's directory information includes title, first name, last name, phone number, address (home and mailing), email address, business name, business address, business website, business email address, year in applicable program, status and academic level (e.g., full-time or part-time), total clock hours, location of attendance, fields of study, dates of enrollment, degrees, diplomas, certificates awarded, letters of attendance/completion, expected date of graduation, dates conferred, dates of attendance, participation in GIA-recognized activities, academic honors and awards received (including, without limitation, type and date or term granted), previously attended educational agencies or institutions and any unique identifying number created for the purpose of compiling, releasing, or transmitting directory information.

You have the right to restrict the further disclosure or further release of any or all of your directory information. If you do not want GIA to further disclose or further release your directory information, you must submit a written request to that effect to the education records department and such request must indicate whether you want to restrict the disclosure or release of certain categories of directory information or all categories of directory information. You can repeal any such requested restriction at any time by filing a written request to that effect to the education records department.

Reasonable Accommodation

GIA is committed to ensuring equal access to its programs and activities for qualified individuals, including individuals with disabilities. This includes making reasonable, appropriate and effective modifications in policies, practices and procedures for qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and applicable state and local laws. GIA does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities seeking to apply to its programs.

Requesting accommodation. Students requesting reasonable accommodation must provide documentation of the reported disability along with the Reasonable Accommodation Request Form to the dean's office. Documentation must be from a professional who is qualified in the testing of the disability. GIA will review the request and inform the student or applicant of its decision in writing.

Confidentiality. All information submitted to or developed by the Institute related to the diagnosis, documentation, or accommodation of a disability is considered confidential. Information is only accessible to and/or shared with GIA employees who have a need to know in order to determine or implement required accommodations.

Providing accommodation. Each circumstance will be considered on an individual basis according to the means, limits and experience of GIA and the request under consideration, at the time of such request. Qualified individuals with disabilities must meet the academic and technical requirements for admission and participation in GIA's education programs and services. Each course requires students to perform particular physical and cognitive tasks. Upon request, GIA is pleased to discuss these tasks with the applicant to evaluate the applicant's potential for success and decision to apply.

Students must continue to meet minimum academic, attendance and behavioral standards as defined in these policies. If a student requests accommodation after being placed on academic advising or probation or is dismissed, the terms of academic advising, probation or dismissal still stand.

Grievances. GIA's 504 Coordinator monitors and oversees the Institute's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act and related regulations. Students, applicants, instructors, administrators or others who participate in GIA's education programs and activities with questions or concerns related to the application of this policy or complaints about discrimination on the basis of a disability are encouraged to contact the 504 Coordinator.

Kimberly Overlin, 504 Coordinator
504coordinator@gia.edu
 +1 760 603 4093
 The Robert Mouawad Campus
 5345 Armada Drive, Mailstop #15
 Carlsbad, California 92008 USA

Additionally, complaints of discrimination may be made to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR):

U.S. Department of Education
 Office for Civil Rights
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-1100
 Telephone +1 800 421 3481
 Fax +1 202 453 6012; TDD +1 800 877 8339
OCR@ed.gov

Title IX Compliance

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient that receives federal financial assistance. As an educational institution subject to Title IX, GIA has adopted the Title IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Policy and Process. As set forth in detail herein, GIA:

- Does not discriminate on the basis of sex, including in admissions and employment and is committed to providing an educational and workplace environment that is free from sex-based discrimination, harassment and retaliation;
- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities, as required by law;
- Is committed to promoting fairness and equity in all aspects of its operations; and
- Values and promotes the equal dignity of all community members and is committed to the pursuit of just resolutions with respect to the rights of all parties involved.

The policy can be accessed by visiting www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information. Inquiries about GIA's Title IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Policy & Process may be referred to GIA's Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator oversees implementation and enforcement of this Policy, which includes primary responsibility for coordinating GIA's efforts related to the intake, investigation, resolution and implementation of supportive measures to stop, remediate and prevent discrimination, harassment and retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Title IX Coordinator may be contacted with questions about this Policy, to file a report or Formal Complaint, or to otherwise assist individuals in ensuring equal access to GIA's educational programs or activities in compliance with Title IX.

Kimberly Overlin, Title IX Coordinator
titleixcoordinator@gia.edu
 +1 760 603 4093
 The Robert Mouawad Campus
 5345 Armada Drive, Mailstop #15
 Carlsbad, California 92008 USA

Additionally, complaints of sexual discrimination may be made to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR):

U.S. Department of Education
 Office for Civil Rights
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202-1100
 Telephone +1 800 421 3481
 Fax +1 202 453 6012; TDD +1 800 877 8339
OCR@ed.gov

Complaint Policy and Procedure

Complaint Policy

GIA takes student complaints seriously. GIA reviews all complaints in a timely, fair and equitable manner. GIA gives all individuals named in a complaint, including students, instructors, or other school employees, the opportunity to respond to the complaint. Students are required to cooperate with all GIA representatives during an investigation in which GIA believes the student(s) may provide relevant information. GIA considers all of the information collected during the investigation in the decision-making process.

Complaint Procedure

Students are encouraged to try to resolve any issues or concerns they may have by first discussing them with the appropriate school official. If the student is unable to reach a resolution, or in cases where informal resolution is not appropriate, the student may submit a formal complaint.

A formal complaint must be submitted to the office of the dean of students in writing at deanstudents@gia.edu. It must contain, at a minimum, the basis of any allegation, all relevant names and dates and a brief description of the actions forming the basis of the complaint. Copies of available documents, materials, or additional reasonable and credible information that support the complaint should also be included.

Students should raise complaints as soon as possible so that they can be properly addressed. Within 10 business days of receiving the complaint, the dean of students will respond to the student with a written summary of the school's investigation and decision regarding the complaint. If the investigation is not complete at the end of 10 business days, the student will be notified in writing that additional time is needed.

If for any reason a person does not feel comfortable directly reporting a complaint as described above, they may report a concern confidentially through GIA's Concern Reporting system at www.GIAwis.ethicspoint.com

Schools accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges must have a procedure and operational plan for handling student complaints. If a student does not feel that the school has adequately addressed a complaint or concern, the student may consider contacting the Accrediting Commission. All complaints reviewed by the Commission must be in written form and should grant permission for the Commission to forward a copy of the complaint to the school

for a response. This can be accomplished by filing the ACCSC Complaint Form. The complainant(s) will be kept informed as to the status of the complaint as well as the final resolution by the Commission. Please direct all inquiries to:

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 247-4212
www.accsc.org | complaints@accsc.org

A copy of the ACCSC Complaint Form is available at the school and may be obtained by contacting complaints@accsc.org or at www.accsc.org/StudentCorner/Complaints.aspx

A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (CA BPPE) by calling +1 888 370 7589 toll free, or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the Bureau's website at <https://bppe.ca.gov>. Students may utilize GIA's internal complaint process, but are not required to exhaust internal processes prior to contacting the CA BPPE. Students may submit a concern at any time to the BPPE or other oversight agency.

GIA maintains separate policies and procedures to address complaints related to sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and retaliation and reasonable accommodation. For more information, please visit www.GIA.edu/student-consumer-information

Non-Retaliation Policy

Threats, other forms of intimidation and retaliation against a student or employee for bringing a complaint of harassment or discrimination or for assisting another in bringing a complaint are prohibited. Retaliation is itself a violation of GIA policy and applicable law and is a serious offense. Acts of retaliation may result in discipline up to and including dismissal or termination.

Animals on Campus

Service animals are permitted on campus. All other animals and pets are prohibited on campus grounds, including all facilities and parking lots.

Visitors

Visitors to GIA facilities must register with GIA Security prior to being admitted and must be prepared to show current government-issued photo identification. A form is available on the My Education Student Portal at <https://education.gia.edu/> If you come to a GIA facility for a class, to take an exam or to use the Student Workroom, please arrive early to allow a few extra minutes for this process to be completed. Non-student visitors are not allowed in the classrooms while classes are in session.

Parking Policy

There is no charge for student parking in the Carlsbad campus parking lot. Students must have a valid driver's license to receive a campus parking permit. All vehicles must display a current parking permit. The parking lot is secured every night after 6:00 p.m. PT; vehicles may not be left in the lot overnight. The speed limit in the parking lot is 15 miles per hour. Students who violate the parking policy will be warned and are subject to loss of parking privileges and dismissal for repeated violations.

Student ID Badges

At the beginning of class, an ID card or badge will be issued to each On Campus student. ID badges must be worn and visible at all times while on campus. There is a fee to replace lost badges. ID cards or badges must be returned to student services if a student is no longer enrolled before his or her end date.

Lost or Damaged Materials

Students are responsible for the books, equipment, metals and stones available for use in the classroom or loaned to them during the term of their enrollment. Students are charged the replacement cost determined by GIA for any lost books, equipment, metals and stones and the repair costs of equipment that is damaged beyond normal wear and tear; replacing an item is not an option. If the item is found at a later date, the amount will be refunded to the student.

Gifts

GIA's policy is that neither GIA nor staff may receive gifts. GIA understands and appreciates the various gift-giving traditions in all of the countries and cultures where we work. Given the special nature of our work, however, we observe very strict gift-giving policies to avoid a conflict of interest, or even the appearance of one. Visit www.GIA.edu/ethics-compliance to view the GIA Code of Conduct.

Commercial Activities

GIA does not permit students to conduct commercial or business activities on GIA property. The display and sale of merchandise is not permitted.

Copyright Infringement and Peer-to-Peer File Sharing

Students must comply with federal copyright laws. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials, including peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject a student to civil and criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary action by GIA, up to and including dismissal. See www.GIA.edu/copyright-infringement for the full policy.

GIA's names and logos, like those of most organizations, are valid trademarks and as such may not be used except as described at www.GIA.edu/copyrights-trademarks. The same is true for GIA's copyrighted materials (including all GIA publications, course materials and printed forms), which may be used only by obtaining prior written consent from GIA. For intellectual property usage requests, please email guidelines@gia.edu

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