

# BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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*In exercising its powers, and performing its duties, the protection of the public shall be the bureau's highest priority. If protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.*

— Education Code § 94875

The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) is responsible for oversight of private postsecondary educational institutions. All non-exempt private postsecondary educational institutions operating in California, regardless of the school's actual physical location, must be approved by BPPE to operate in the state. The Bureau regulates over 1,000 institutions. BPPE's enabling act, the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, is codified at Education Code section 94800 et seq. The powers and duties specified in the Act are vested in the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), who in turn delegates that responsibility to BPPE as a departmental bureau. BPPE's regulations are in Division 7.5, Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Operating within, and as a part of, the larger DCA, the law establishes BPPE's purpose as (a) protecting students and consumers against fraud, misrepresentation, or other business malpractices at postsecondary institutions that may lead to loss of student tuition and related educational funds; (b) establishing and enforcing minimum standards for ethical business practices and the health, safety, and fiscal integrity of postsecondary institutions; and (c) establishing and enforcing minimum standards for instructional quality and institutional stability for all students.

As of 2015, private for-profit schools received an average of 86% of their revenue from federal grants and loans by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). In addition to the federal grants and

loans, private for-profits received increased federal GI bill funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Title 38 of the United States Code provides veterans with public funding for tuition payments as well as some living expenses. The combined federal funding sources going to for-profit institutions amount to around \$20 billion a year in taxpayer funds.

Further complicating California’s regulation of the private for-profit industry are the remaining states’ substantial delegation of their regulatory function under the “State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements” (SARA). This system essentially allows a school to choose its state regulator and then arrange reciprocal approval by other states—thus bypassing performance requirements and other regulations at the state level. To date, California is the only state declining to join SARA. Its entry would substantially impact BPPE’s regulatory powers, particularly given the growth of distance learning—where California students may be enrolled in schools with a *situs* in another state. Effective July 1, 2017, certain out-of-state private schools that enroll California residents as students must register with BPPE, pay a \$1,500 registration fee, and submit required [documentation](#).

The Bureau has the authority to cite, revoke, suspend, place on probation, or bring an action for equitable relief against any approved institution if it violates applicable law. Its jurisdiction includes all private educational institutions, including private non-profits. However, most of its regulatory focus has been on the for-profit sector.

BPPE maintains and administers the [Student Tuition Recovery Fund \(STRF\)](#) to mitigate economic losses a student suffers when institutions close, fail to pay or reimburse federal loan proceeds, or fail to pay judgments against them. The STRF is funded through student fees. In 2022, STRF increased rates beginning in April 2022. Statutes require institutions to charge \$2.50 per \$1,000 of institutional charges to be paid into the STRF. Effective April 1, 2024, the STRF assessment rate will change to \$0.00 per \$1,000 of institutional charges.

BPPE also maintains the [Office of Student Assistance and Relief](#) (OSAR), which conducts outreach and provides current and past students of private colleges information about their rights, how to file a school complaint, and resources available to them—including potential reimbursement from the STRF. OSAR helps students navigate their financial future following a school closure or unlawful activities of their private college and provides free one-on-one consultations to help students at for-profit schools maximize their economic relief benefits. The chief of OSAR is statutorily required to attend, testify, and answer questions at each Advisory Committee meeting.

BPPE maintains an Enforcement Section to handle complaints, investigations, and other actions to implement its standards. The Bureau also reviews private postsecondary institution applications for initial approval and subsequent renewals to operate within California.

As a bureau within DCA, BPPE is not governed by a multi-member board. BPPE operates under the oversight of a Bureau Chief appointed by the Governor and under the direct authority of the DCA Director. The Bureau Chief is Deborah Cochrane. In addition to the Bureau Chief, BPPE has a statutorily mandated Advisory Committee tasked with advising BPPE on matters related to private postsecondary education and the administration of the Bureau’s governing statutes, including an annual review of the fee schedule, licensing, and enforcement.

The 12 members of the Advisory Committee must include three consumer advocates, one each appointed by the DCA Director, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Assembly Speaker; two current or past students of private postsecondary institutions appointed by the DCA Director; three representatives of private postsecondary institutions, appointed by the DCA Director; two public members, one each appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and the Assembly Speaker; and two non-voting *ex officio* members (the chairs of the Senate and Assembly policy committees with jurisdiction over legislation relating to BPPE).

On June 23, 2023, Dr. Tracy Poon Tambascia was appointed as a public member to the Advisory Committee by the Speaker of the Assembly. Dr. Tambascia is the Veronica and David Hagen Chair in Women’s Leadership and Professor of Clinical Education in the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. Dr. Tambascia was formerly President of the USC Academic Senate. She served on the Board of Directors for NASPA and is the Chair of the WASC Senior University Commission. Dr. Tambascia earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Southern California, an M.A. in psychology from the California State University, Los Angeles, and a B.A. in psychology from Occidental College.

In addition, on June 23, 2023, Kansen Chu was reappointed to the Committee as a consumer advocate by the Speaker of the Assembly.

On August 7, 2023, the DCA Director reappointed Leigh Ferrin as the student representative to the Committee.

There are two vacancies on the Advisory Committee at this writing: a past student of an institution and an institutional representative; both are to be appointed by the DCA Director.

## **ADJUDICATION**

### **Assessments of Fines and/or Orders of Abatement**

BPPE filed major citations with the following institutions requiring the payment of fines \$1,000 or over.

- A-1 Truck Driving School, Inc. (6/5/2023)
- AAA Academy, LLC (9/5/2023)
- Academy of Truck Driving (6/13/2023)
- Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine College – Berkeley (8/28/2023)
- Advanced Archilli Institute (8/2/2023)
- Aero Tech Academy, Inc. (4/20/2023)
- American College of Music (7/19/2023)
- American Employment Institute (8/31/2023)

- American EMT Academy (8/28/2023)
- American English Center Los Angeles (10/12/2023)
- America Evangelical University (10/12/2023)
- American Fitness and Nutrition Academy, Inc. (8/2/2023, 11/16/2023)
- American Trade Academy (9/29/2023)
- Anaheim University (5/11/2023)
- Angelica's Career Academy of Cosmetology (8/16/2023)
- Bama Institute, LLC (7/25/2023)
- Beauty and Elegance Academy (5/4/2023)
- Be School, Inc. dba SV Academy (9/29/2023)
- Black Fox Timber Management Group Inc. (8/25/2023)
- Borner's Barber College (8/25/2023)
- California College of Barbering and Cosmetology (9/5/2023)
- California College of Natural Medicine, Inc. (5/17/2023)
- California College of Early Childhood Education (7/17/2023, 9/29/2023)
- California RDA Institute, formerly known as, California Dental Certifications, LLC
- California Hair Design Academy (10/18/2023)
- California Healing Arts College (8/18/2023)
- California Institute of Career Development (9/29/2023)
- California Truck Driving Academy LLC (8/1/2023)
- Cambrian Homecare (9/5/2023)
- Clever Programmer, LLC (8/15/2023)
- Crescent College, Inc. (8/15/2023)
- Deep Creek Construction School (4/26/2023)
- DePaul University (4/20/2023)
- Destiny School of Nursing and Education LLC (5/11/2023)
- The Devmasters (5/11/2023)
- The Digital Film Center LLC dba Digital Film Academy (5/11/2023)
- Ding King Training Institute (10/12/2023)
- DNA Phlebotomy School LLC (10/24/2023)
- Educating Barbers, LLC dba "The Academy" (4/21/2023)
- Elite Permanent Makeup & Training Center (5/8/2023)
- Eminence Barber Academy (4/24/2023)
- The English Experience (4/26/2023)
- ERP College (8/18/2023)
- FLS International (4/20/2023)
- Foundry College (8/18/2023)
- Georgiykot Academy USA (11/2/2023)
- Good Shepherd Nursing College (10/12/2023)
- HIS University (8/3/2023)
- Howard Healthcare Academy (10/2/2023)
- Imperfect Artistry (10/26/2023)
- Institute of Oriental Medicine (10/3/2023)
- Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis (4/27/2023)
- JDS Security Training (4/20/2023)

- JEM College (10/3/2023)
- JJ Truck Driving School (5/24/2023)
- Kali Institute for Massage & Somatic Therapies (10/26/2023)
- Knowledge Innovations Academy (8/23/2023)
- LEARN Academy (1/1/2023)
- Learning Institute of Southern California (4/20/2023)
- Los Angeles Institute of Architecture & Design (7/17/2023)
- Lotus Medical Career College (11/2/2023)
- Loving Hands Institute of Healing Arts (5/4/2023)
- Maiquela's Cosmetology Academy (7/25/2023)
- Massage Therapy Institute (8/18/2023)
- Master Barbering Academy (10/31/2023)
- Medical Allied Career Center, Inc. (11/6/2023)
- Mission Career College (11/2/2023)
- Musicians Institute (11/2/2023)
- National Cosmetology Beauty School (5/1/2023)
- New Creation College (4/20/2023)
- New School of Architecture and Design (10/12/2023)
- Nurses' Development Center, Inc. (11/2/2023)
- OC Health Career College (4/27/2023)
- Oxford Institute of Technology (4/17/2023)
- Oxman College (6/1/2023)
- Pacific Times Healthcare College (7/25/2023)
- Paris Beauty College (10/12/2023)
- Phlebotomy Training Academy (6/15/2023)
- Pro CDA Inc. (7/19/2023)
- Quality Care Massage Education Centers (5/3/2023)
- Recording Radio Film Connection, Inc. (5/22/2023)
- Sun Limited Beauty, LLC (6/1/2023)
- San Francisco Film School (6/15/2023)
- San Bernardino Cuts Barbering & Cosmetology Apprenticeship (5/25/2023)
- Scalp Micro Nation (8/16/2023)
- Select Therapy Institute (10/12/2023)
- Sis & Sis Brows (5/18/2023)
- SoCal EMT/Fire Training (10/19/2023)
- Stellar Career College (11/2/2023)
- The Academy for Professional Development (7/11/2023)
- The Accounting Academy (8/28/2023)
- Coastal Trucking Institute LLC (4/21/2023)
- The Hatlen Center for The Blind, A Program of Wayfinder Family Services (11/2/2023)
- The Laboratory Institute of Merchandising, Inc. dba LIM College (7/11/2023)
- The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (10/30/2023)
- Transportation Guidance & Assistance Truck Driving School (7/20/2023)
- Trinity School of Nursing (7/18/2023)
- Trophy Beauty (6/30/2023)

- Union Institute University (10/24/2023)
- United College (8/16/2023)
- University of Irvine (6/2/2023)
- University of North Los Angeles (7/19/2023)
- UNM Vocational, Inc. dba Truck Nation School (5/12/2023)
- Untouchable Academy (7/25/2023)
- USA English Language Center (8/28/2023)
- Veterans & Youth Career Collaborative (7/11/2023)
- Veterinary Allied Staff Education, LLC (4/19/2023)
- VyBrows Academy (8/28/2023)

## **Accusations of Violations**

BPPE filed accusations requesting revocation or suspension of previous approvals to operate against the following institutions:

- California Institute of The Healing Arts and Sciences: [Accusation](#) (5/15/2023);
- Modesto Technical College: [Accusation](#) (11/2/2023)

## **Statements of Issues to Deny Approval**

BPPE filed statements of issues against the following institutions to deny approvals to operate, alleging that the institutions failed to file the required documentation compliant with the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 and other applicable laws:

- California Institute of The Healing Arts and Sciences: [Stipulation and Revocation Order](#) (9/27/2023)
- Jade Beauty and Barber College: [Statement of Issues](#) (7/26/2023)
- Micro-Easy Vocational Institute: [Decision and Order](#) (6/9/2023)
- Milpitas Massage College: [Decision and Order](#) (5/12/2023)
- Silicon Valley University: [Order Suspending Approval to Operate Degree Granting Programs](#) (10/25/2023)