



Otis College of Art and Design

STUDENT COMPLAINT DISCLOSURE

On October 29, 2010 the United State Department of Education issued a Final Regulations on Program Integrity Issues [75 FR 66831] that includes regulations at 34 CFR §600.9 requiring that educational institutions not created by the state be “established by name as an educational institution by a State through a charter, statute, constitutional provision or other action . . .” and be “authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary level, including programs leading to a degree or certificate.” California’s independent, non-profit, WASC accredited colleges and universities are authorized within the meaning of 34 CFS §600.9 et seq for the following reason:

1. The California Master Plan for Higher Education specifically recognizes that California’s independent institutions of higher education “share goals designed to provide education opportunity and success to the broadest possible range of [California’s] citizens” with the state’s public segments (California Education Code § 66010.2).
2. The Legislature “recognizes the role of independent, regionally accredited postsecondary education in California postsecondary education,” and that “statewide planning, policy coordination, and review of postsecondary education shall include attention to the contributions of the independent institutions in meeting the state’s goals of access, quality, educational equity, economic development, and student aid” (California Education Code §66014.5(a)).
3. The Legislature in adopting the Private Postsecondary Education Act chose to exempt institutions that are “accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges” from the Act (California Education Code, Title 3, Division 10, Part 59, Chapter 8).
4. All of the institutions covered by the WASC exemption to the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 have had to meet strict standards regarding classroom instruction quality, adequate facilities, and financial stability. These institutions are eligible to participate in California’s student aid program known as the Cal Grant Program, and subject to audit by the California Student Aid Commission.
5. California’s longstanding “Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act” [Cal. Gov’t Code § 12598] provides public means to submit complaints regarding non-profit colleges and universities that abuse their status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (23 U.S.C. §501(c)(3), and grants to the California Attorney General broad powers to undertake law enforcement investigations and legal actions to protect the public interest.

Under existing law, the Attorney General maintains oversight of nonprofit colleges and universities to assure compliance with their stated public purpose. Accordingly, final authority rests with the Attorney General, who can review any complaint to assure that a student's complaint was subjected to a fair process consistent with procedures established by the nonprofit college or university.

Otis College of Art and Design takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution.

If you have a complaint regarding Otis College of Art and Design, you may present your complaint to:

Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Dean of Student Affairs at student@otis.edu

or

Provost at provost@otis.edu

or

Title IX Coordinator at cbranch@otis.edu

These contacts will provide you with a written explanation of the campus process for addressing your particular complaint(s) and answer any questions you may have to assure you a fair process.

If you believe that your complaint warrants further attention after exhausting all the steps outlined in the writing given to you by the AVP/Dean of Student Affairs or Provost, you may contact:

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) at <http://www.wascenior.org/comments> if your complaint is about the institution's compliance with academic program quality and accrediting standards. WASC is the academic accrediting body for Otis College of Art and Design.

If you believe that your complaint continues to warrant further consideration after exhausting the review of either WASC or the investigative team representing Otis College of Art and Design, you may submit a complaint to the Attorney General of the State of California by filing a complaint form with the Public Inquiry Unit of the California State Department of Justice at:

1. Public Inquiry Unit: 916-322-3360; Toll-free (in CA): 800-952-5225; Fax: 916-323-5341; or
On line forms: http://ag.ca.gov/contact/complaint_form.php?cmplt=PL

The Attorney General's Office will review the process through which the campus attempted to resolve your complaint. If the process complies with the written outline, the Attorney General's Office will, for the purposes of state oversight, consider the matter closed. If the Attorney General determines that the process through which the campus attempted to resolve your complaint did not comply with its published process, the Attorney General may request reconsideration by Otis College of Art and Design. The Attorney General's Office also has oversight of Otis College of Art and Design as authorized through the "Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act" [Cal. Gov't Code § 12598], which provides public means to submit complaints regarding non-profit colleges and universities that abuse their status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (23 U.S.C. §501(c)(3)). The California Attorney General is given broad powers to undertake law enforcement investigations and legal actions to protect the public interest under Cal. Gov't Code § 12598.

Most complaints made to media outlets or public figures, including members of the California legislature, Congress, the Governor, or individual Regents of Otis College of Art and Design are referred to the College President's Office.

Nothing in this disclosure limits any right that you may have to seek civil or criminal legal action to resolve your complaints.

Otis College of Art and Design has provided this disclosure to you in compliance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, as regulated in CFR 34, Sections 600.9 (b) (3) and 668.43(b). If anything in this disclosure is out of date, please notify the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management/ Dean of Student Affairs at:

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