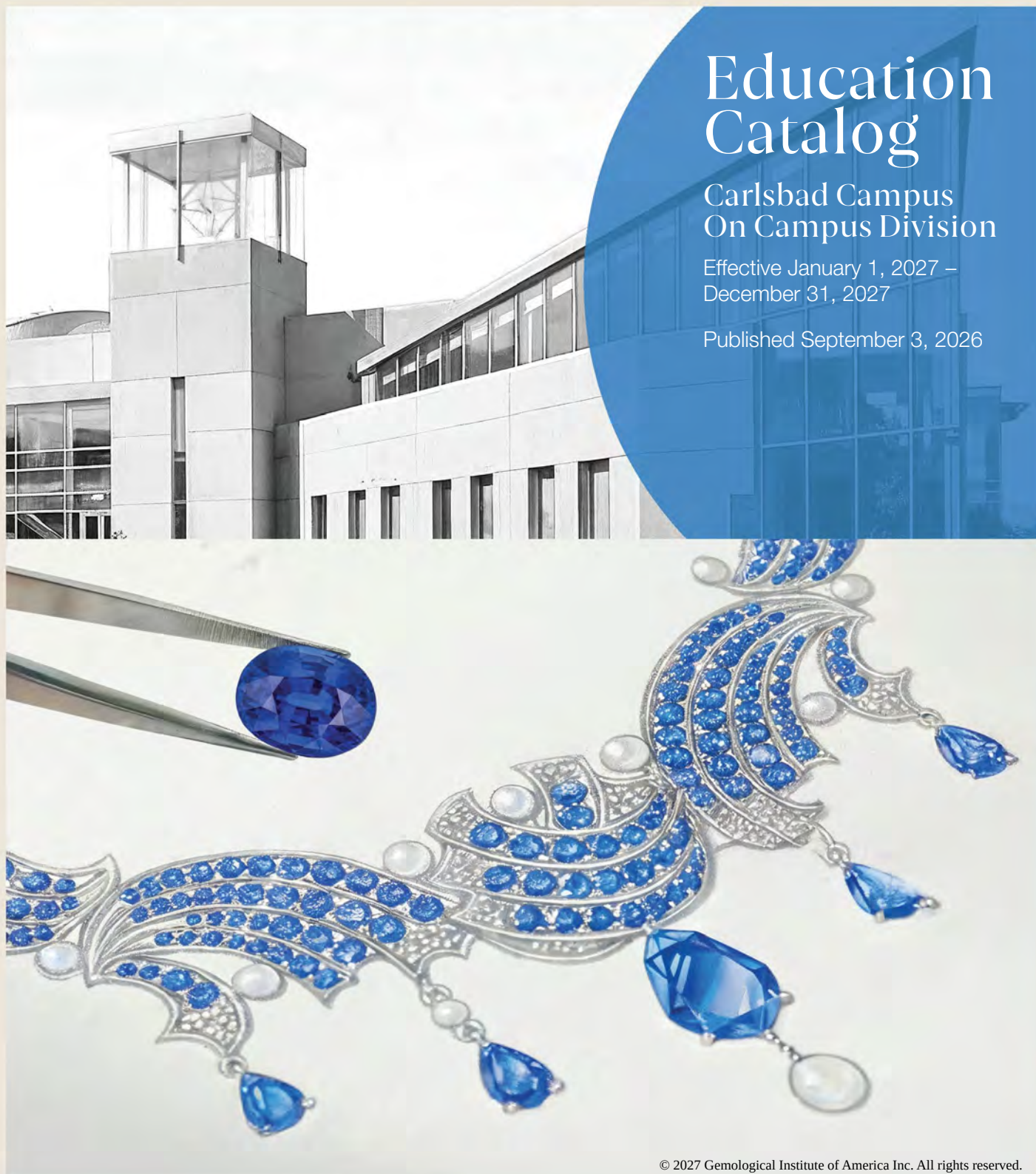


Education Catalog

Carlsbad Campus
On Campus Division

Effective January 1, 2027 –
December 31, 2027

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Welcome Message

Growing up in a multi-generational family jewelry business, I always knew GIA would shape my future. Looking back now, I can say with certainty that a GIA education opened the door to a rewarding career filled with opportunities I never could have imagined.

When I completed the Graduate Gemologist program, I gained more than knowledge and credentials. I gained the confidence to shape my own path and a network of fellow alumni who continue to inspire, support, and guide me to this day.

My career began at Tiffany & Co., where I advanced from sales professional into management. Today, I have the privilege of serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Learning Officer at GIA.

While my journey is uniquely mine, it reflects something many GIA alumni share: a GIA education is transformative. It equips you with skills, credibility, and connections that open doors across the gem and jewelry industry. It was the best investment I made for my future, and I believe it can be the same for you.

From gemology to jewelry arts, our programs provide the knowledge and expertise you need to excel in your chosen field. Whether your path leads to sales, manufacturing, design, appraisal, or auction, you will graduate prepared for success. GIA alumni hold influential roles across every sector of the industry, and with a GIA diploma, you will be ready to step into that world with confidence.

Beyond what you learn in our programs, you will also join a powerful global community. The GIA Alumni Collective®, more than 165,000 strong across 58 chapters worldwide, is here to celebrate your achievements, share knowledge, and connect you to opportunities that will shape both your career and your life.

As you explore this catalog, I invite you to imagine what's possible for your future. At GIA, you will find the foundation, the inspiration, and the community to achieve your dreams. The world of gems and jewelry is waiting – your journey begins here.

Warm regards,

Cathryn Ramirez, GIA GG

Senior Vice President & Chief Learning Officer



Cathryn Ramirez, SVP and Chief Learning Officer
- ©GIA

Mission and History

Mission Statement

GIA's mission is to transform students into the trusted gem and jewelry professionals and makers of the future through flexible education.

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:

Lifelong Learning and Curiosity

We encourage continuous learning, growth and exploration.

Creativity and Innovation

We champion creative thinking and innovative solutions, driving progress and inspiring new ideas.

Integrity and Respect

We uphold the truth with consideration for the thoughts and ideas of others.

Global Community

We foster collaboration and enduring relationships with peers and colleagues around the world.

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, State Licensing and Approvals

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 assigned to all GIA educational programs is 50.0713. The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code assigned to all GIA educational 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 Carlsbad campus. ACCSC's accreditation is institutional in nature and applies only to GIA's U.S. On Campus programs. GIA's online courses, Lab classes, and Professional Development programs and courses do not fall within the scope of ACCSC accreditation. The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Licensing and Approvals

GIA 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.

Professional Development programs and courses do not fall within the scope of the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and are not subject to BPPE oversight.

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 veterans benefits and vocational rehabilitation funding, for the approved On Campus programs from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges (ACCSC)

2101 Wilson Blvd. Ste. 302
Arlington, VA 22201 USA
+1 703 247 4212
www.accsc.org



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE)

1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834 USA
+1 916 574 8900
www.bppe.ca.gov



Governance

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. For a current list of GIA Board of Governors, visit <https://www.gia.edu/gia-about-mission-governance-esg>.

Lisa A. Locklear ♦ - Chair

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Longeveron

Stephen F. Kahler - Vice Chair

Chief Strategy Officer and Member of Board of Everidge

Dave Bindra ♦

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

Wendy A. Bohrson, Ph.D. ♦

Professor, Department of Geology and Geological
Engineering, Colorado School of Mines

Lisa Bridge ♦

Experienced Industry Executive

Lake Dai

Adjunct Professor, Applied AI at Carnegie Mellon University

François Delage ♦

Experienced global luxury, fashion and jewelry retail CEO

Kiko Harvey ♦

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

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.

Pritesh Patel ♦

President and CEO, GIA

Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D. ♦

Curator Emeritus, National Gem and Mineral Collection,
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Tammy Storino

Chief Financial Officer, Beach House Group (BHG)

Marcus ter Haar

Experienced diamond industry executive

Education Committee of the Board

The Education Committee of GIA's Board of Governors provides input and perspectives that are vital to the Institute's success, growth, and continuous improvement. Committee members are denoted by the symbol (♦).

Education Management and Faculty

GIA's staff and management comprise a diverse group of highly experienced professionals from both within and outside the gem and jewelry industry who are responsible for carrying out the Institute's mission. Together, they oversee the Institute's daily operations and support the continued growth and success of GIA.

Executive Management

Cathryn Ramirez

Senior Vice President and Chief Learning Officer

Corey Rosso

Vice President, Global Strategy and School Operations

Kelly Yantzer

Vice President, Organizational Effectiveness

Education Management

Vacant

School Director, Carlsbad

Kimberly Overlin

Director, Student Services

Robyn Burrell

Director, Education Compliance and Financial Aid

Nikole Ellis, Ph.D.

Manager, Student Success

Brenda Harwick

Senior Manager, On Campus Instruction

Matt Stargardter

Manager, Career Services

Natalie Davies

Registrar

Dianna Parsons

Manager, Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center

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, is trained in instructional methods and teaching skills, and participates in ongoing professional development activities. Please refer to our website at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/faculty for an up-to-date listing of faculty and their qualifications.

Gemology Instruction

Martin Harmon

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

Jessica Kramer

GIA GG, AJP

Steffano Minetto

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

Beth Vanderwerken

GIA GG, AJP

Kate Waterman

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

Jewelry Arts Instruction

Amy Ambroult

BFA Graphic Design, GIA AJP

Darla Alvarez

BA Philosophy, GIA GJ, AJP

Manuel Basmajian

GIA AJP

Paula Carter-Andrews

BA Jewellery and 3D Design, GIA AJP

Zachary Hawkins

GIA GG, GJ, CCC, AJP, Pearls Graduate

Douglas Hall

BFA Metalsmithing

Timothy Meier

BFA Jewelry and Ceramics

Timothy O'Meara

Cate O'Connell-Richards

MFA, Metalsmithing

Carrie Skinner

BFA Metal and Jewelry Arts, NASJ BenchJeweler, GIA AJP

Facility, Classrooms and Equipment

GIA's Carlsbad Campus and World Headquarters is located at The Robert Mouawad Campus, 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008, USA. All On Campus offerings are held at this facility unless otherwise noted in the course schedule and the student's enrollment agreement.

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 and includes 16 classrooms; the world's largest gemological library containing more than 67,000 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 vehicle charging stations, electric bike charging stations and bike racks.

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 and 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

Gemology classrooms can accommodate up to 24 students and jewelry arts classrooms up to 20 students. Each classroom is well 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 13.

Computer and Internet Access

The campus has wireless internet access available at no charge. Computers with internet access and computer-aided design (CAD) software are available in the library for student use during normal operating hours.

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 more than 67,000 books, 1,000 periodical titles in various languages, and 2,000 videos and other media. The collections cover gemstones, minerals, lapidary, geology, mineralogy, jewelry manufacturing, and jewelry history. Materials are searchable through the Library's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) at library.gia.edu.

Lending library. Students may check out print materials while they are on campus. The lending library consists of more than 17,000 volumes, 124 current subscriptions, and approximately 2,000 videos. DVDs may be viewed on computers in the Library's study area.

Archives. The Library's archives and rare book collection includes works dating back to 1496. Print materials in the archives are accessible by appointment only. Public-domain works published before 1931 are being digitized, with more than 1,300 titles freely available through the Internet Archive.

E-Books. Students and alumni may access more than 550 eBooks and 6,000 magazines through the [Libby app](#). Students may sign in using their GIA student ID number as their library card number and password.

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

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

GIA Museum Collection

The 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 gemstones and jewelry.

Food and Beverage

Students have several options for meals, snacks, and beverages, both on campus and at nearby off-campus locations.

GIA's cafe is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for breakfast and lunch. Students can order on-site or online for pickup 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, and outdoor seating is also available. Self-service vending machines on campus offer snacks, small lunch items and a variety of bottled beverages.



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

School Calendar and Hours of Operation

2027 School Closure Dates

The campus is closed and services will not be available on these dates (exceptions noted below). For the most current scheduling information please visit <https://www.gia.edu/gem-education/schedules>.

Date	Holiday / Event
January 01, 2027 (Friday)	New Year's Day
January 18, 2027 (Monday)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 01, 2027 (Monday)	AGTA GemFair, Tucson (campus open, no in-person classes)
February 15, 2027 (Monday)	Presidents' Day
May 31, 2027 (Monday)	Memorial Day
June 04, 2027 (Friday)	JCK Show, Las Vegas (campus open, no in-person classes)
June 18, 2027 (Friday)	Juneteenth Freedom Day (campus open, no in-person classes)
June 21, 2027 (Monday)	Instructor In-Service Day (campus open, no in-person classes)
July 05, 2027 (Monday)	Independence Day (Observed)
September 06, 2027 (Monday)	Labor Day
November 11, 2027 (Thursday)	Veterans Day (campus open, no in-person classes)
November 22, 2027 (Monday) through November 26, 2027 (Friday)	Thanksgiving Break
December 20, 2027 (Monday) through December 31, 2027 (Friday)	Winter Break

Hours of Operation

The Carlsbad campus is open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT except for the scheduled school closures noted above.

Library Hours

The Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center at the Carlsbad location is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time (PT).

Registration Period

GIA has one year-long academic term with continuous enrollment.

Class Schedules & Hours

Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for up-to-date class schedules. Class hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. PT. Students should expect to spend several hours each day outside of class on homework and other assigned projects.

Extended Lab Hours

GIA may schedule additional lab hours for students who are not meeting academic progress standards.

Contacts and Resources

Department Contacts

Admissions and Registration

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, employment & professional development support

+1 760 603 4450 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4450
careerservices@gia.edu

Education Advising

Academic progress, course planning, and academic standing guidance

+1 760 603 4134 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4134
edadvising@gia.edu

Education Service Desk - Technical Support

Applicant Portal, My GIA Education Portal and Learning Management System (LMS)

log-in, access and other technical issues
 +1 760 603 4350 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4350
onlinesupport@gia.edu

Financial Assistance

Federal financial aid, veterans benefits, vocational rehab, scholarships

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

International Student Advising

Student visas, U.S. arrival / departure, living in the U.S.

+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312
intladvisor@gia.edu

School Director

Reasonable accommodations, leave of absence, withdrawal, probation, dismissal, complaints

+1 760 603 4093 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4093
cbdedudirector@gia.edu

Student Accounts

Financial account, payments, refunds

+1 760 603 4470 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470
educationacctsrc.us@gia.edu

Student Records / Registrar

Certificates, diplomas, transcripts, contact information updates, proctored exams, FERPA

+1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312 | +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312
edrecords@gia.edu, proctor@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

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

Learning Management System Access (Current Students)

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

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 | <https://www.gia.edu/library>

My GIA Education Portal

View your academic, financial and student records; make payments, select a payment plan, submit forms, access courses in the learning management system (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, computer-aided design (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	Course 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 14
Graduate Colored Stones	GEM 2300	570	19	20	Page 18
Graduate Diamonds	GEM 2200	210	7	8	Page 16
JEWELRY ARTS					
Graduate Jeweler	JMA 3300	780	26	27	Page 20
Jewelry Design & Technology	JMA 3400	780	26	27	Page 22
Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry	JMA 400	210	7	7	Page 24
Jewelry Design	JMA 370	270	9	9	Page 26



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

Graduate Gemologist®



Description

The Graduate Gemologist diploma program at GIA provides an extensive education in gemology, encompassing both diamonds and colored stones. This program consists of two specialized courses; Graduate Diamonds and Graduate Colored Stones, each leading to an individual diploma. Upon completing both courses, students achieve the comprehensive Graduate Gemologist diploma. Participants in the Graduate Gemologist course gain a deep understanding of the gemology field, preparing them for careers in the gemstone and jewelry industries.

Graduate Diamonds Course

The 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; and 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. Please see the [Graduate Diamonds](#) program description for more details.

Graduate Colored Stones Course

The Graduate Colored Stones course 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. Please see the [Graduate Colored Stones](#) program description for more details.

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

Program Highlights

- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** In-depth study of both diamonds and colored stones, including traditional and current industry practices.
- **Scientific Foundations:** Robust course content based on decades of original research on diamond and colored stone formation, identification, and evaluation.
- **Professional Instruction:** Instruction team with real gem and jewelry trade experience, solid gemology knowledge base and professional teaching skills.
- **Practical Application:** Hands-on training using professional gemological tools with the GIA 4Cs Diamond Grading System, gem identification protocols, and the GIA Colored Stone Grading System.
- **Industry-Relevant Skills:** Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in gemstone identification, evaluation, and trading.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

What You 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

Courses/Course Number	Clock Hours	Calendar Weeks
GEM 2200 Graduate Diamonds	210	8+ weeks
GEM 2300 Graduate Colored Stones	570	20+ weeks
Total Program Hours/Weeks	780	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. 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, diamond grading tray, a handheld 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 padfolio, refractometer with polarizing filter and removable magnifying eyepiece, refractive index (RI) liquid, polariscope with magnifying eyepiece and an optic figure sphere, dichroscope, handheld spectroscope, pinpoint incandescent light source and lab manuals.

See "Technology Requirements" on page 28.

Graduate Diamonds



Description

The Graduate Diamonds program 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; and 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.

Graduate Diamonds may be taken as a standalone program or as part of the comprehensive [Graduate Gemologist](#) program.

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™
- Describe the effects of diamond treatment

- Describe characteristics of natural and lab-grown diamonds
- Describe how quality, rarity, color and market factors affect gem value

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: In-depth study of diamonds and the diamond industry
- Scientific Foundations: Robust course content based on GIA's world-class research in terms of diamond science, identification and evaluation over the past 80-plus years.
- Professional Instruction: Instruction team with real diamond trade experience, solid diamond knowledge base and effective communication skills.
- Practical Application: Instructed hands-on diamond grading and identification experience using professional gemological tools.
- Industry-Relevant Skills: Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in diamond identification, evaluation and trading.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

What You Earn

GIA Graduate Diamonds Diploma

Occupations May Include

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

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

Details

Graduate Diamonds

Course 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. 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, a handheld light source and diamond grading tray. As part of their course materials, students receive a 10x loupe, diamond tweezer, gem cloth, pointer probe, plotting pens, table gauge, crown angle cards, color grading cards, GIA padfolio and a lab manual.

See "Technology Requirements" on page 28.



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.

Graduate Colored Stones may be taken as a standalone program or as part of the comprehensive [Graduate Gemologist](#) program.

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

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: In-depth study of colored stones and its industry with the focus on sourcing, identification, evaluation and trading.
- Scientific Foundations: Robust course content based on GIA's world-class research in terms of colored stone formation, identification, and evaluation for the past 80-plus years.
- Professional Instruction: Instruction team with real colored gemstone trading experience, solid knowledge base and effective communication skills.
- Practical Application: Instructed hands-on practice on colored gemstone identification and evaluation.
- Industry-Relevant Skills: Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in colored stone identification, evaluation and trading.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

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

Course Number	GEM 2300
Clock Hours / Instructional 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. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

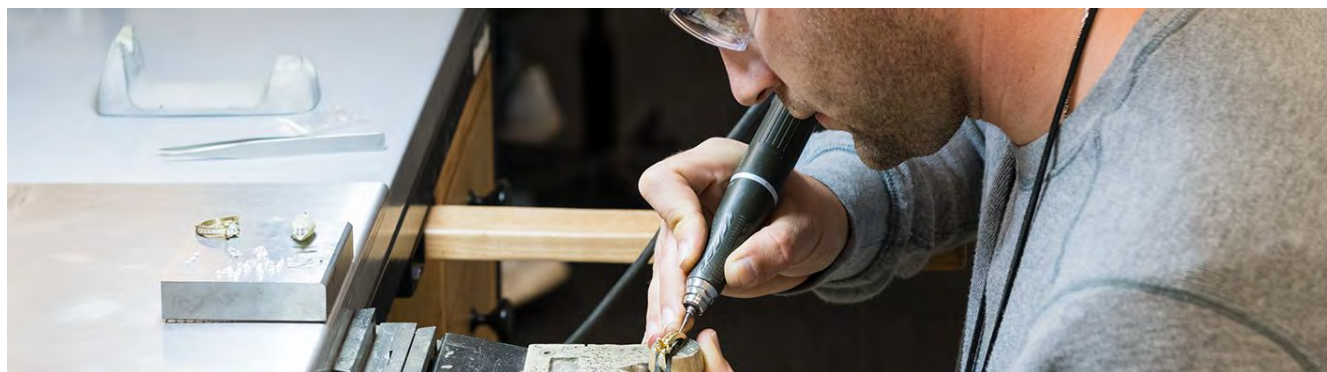
Each classroom is equipped with an electronic balance with hydrostatic unit, UV lamp with viewing cabinet, desktop prism spectroscope, color filter and a fiber-optic light unit. Each student workstation has a binocular microscope with an overhead light source, diffuser plate and monochromatic light source. As part of their course materials, students receive a refractometer with polarizing filter and removable magnifying eyepiece, refractive index (RI) liquid, polariscope with magnifying eyepiece and optic figure sphere, dichroscope, handheld spectroscope, pinpoint incandescent light source, colored stone tweezer and lab manuals.

See "Technology Requirements" on page 28.



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 finished jewelry using base and precious metals
- Apply texture, polish and electroplating finishes
- Demonstrate common jewelry repairs
- Describe safe operation of common jewelry manufacturing tools
- Explain how metallurgical properties impact jewelry manufacturing
- Self-evaluate and refine their jewelry-making skills

Modular Course Structure

JMA 201 Bench Basics - This introductory module establishes the essential foundation for safe and effective work at the jeweler's bench. Students learn shop safety protocols, proper maintenance practices, and the fundamentals of metallurgy. Instruction covers the use of tools, the optivisor and loupe, as well as core skills such as layout and measuring, drilling, sawing, and piercing. Students develop hand skills through filing, sanding, surface preparation, polishing, and buffing. Additional training

includes torch operation and soldering techniques, ring measurement, milling, wire drawing, and introductory ring sizing using stretch and compression methods.

JMA 202 Bench Level 1 - This module builds on foundational skills and introduces students to jewelry fabrication and repair techniques. Students gain proficiency in basic soldering, stone setting, forging, and chain repair while beginning to produce finished projects. Representative projects include hoop earrings, toggle bracelets, pierced earrings, box rings, and twist rings. The module emphasizes accuracy, craftsmanship, and consistency in developing bench techniques. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 1 with a grade of 75% or higher.*

JMA 203 Bench Level 2 - Students advance their technical skills with an emphasis on setting and casting techniques. Instruction includes prong setting, laser welding, wax carving, and casting methods. Projects such as solitaire rings and laser welding reinforce repair and stone setting concepts, while self-evaluation exercises encourage students to critically assess and refine their work. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 2 with a grade of 75% or higher.*

JMA 204 Bench Level 3 - This module focuses on bezel settings, mesh chain fabrication, and design sketching to expand creative and technical capabilities. Students complete projects including a three-stone ring, a gallery ring, a box clasp, and the D3 design project. Emphasis is placed on precision, creativity, and technical mastery as students move toward more complex bench work. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 3 with a grade of 75% or higher.*

JMA 205 Bench Level 4 - Students explore advanced setting and repair work with a focus on platinum and specialized techniques. Instruction covers channel setting, flush setting, platinum fabrication, and a range of trade repair practices. Representative projects include a halo ring, wedding sets, and the application of gravers. By the conclusion of this module, students demonstrate readiness for professional-level jewelry bench assignments. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 4 with a grade of 75% or higher.*

JMA 206 Graduate Jeweler Capstone - The capstone module provides students with an opportunity to integrate and demonstrate all skills learned throughout the program. Students complete a creative "Mystery Box" design project, undergo a final practical bench test, and prepare for a design show presentation. This culminating experience serves as the final assessment of technical proficiency and creativity, confirming readiness for professional practice. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 5 with a grade of 75% or higher.*

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: Training in core skill development, metallurgy and gemstones, fabrication, stone setting, torch and laser repairs, wax carving, casting, hand engraving, and working with platinum.
- Hands-on Experience: Access to professional tools and techniques with personal workstations.
- Real-World Application: Instruction by experienced professional jewelers with extensive industry knowledge.
- Career-Focused Skills: Provides graduates with the knowledge required for a range of roles in the jewelry manufacturing sector.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

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

Courses/Course Number	Clock Hours	Calendar Weeks
JMA 201 Bench Basics	60	2 weeks
JMA 202 Bench Level 1	180	6 weeks
JMA 203 Bench Level 2	180	6 weeks
JMA 204 Bench Level 3	150	5 weeks
JMA 205 Bench Level 4	150	5 weeks
JMA 206 GJ Capstone	60	2 weeks
Total Program Hours/ Weeks	780	26+ calendar weeks
Total Charges	See "Tuition and Fees" on page 36.	

Schedules and Class Hours

Graduate Jeweler students may access the studio during designated evening lab hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. These optional hours provide additional time to practice skills and complete coursework.

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. [See "Technology Requirements" on page 28.](#)

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

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: In-depth study of digital jewelry design, jewelry engineering, CAD modeling, and 3D printing for jewelry manufacturing.
- Solid Foundations: Robust course content based on GIA's world-class experience in terms of hardware/software research, design, jewelry engineering, and CAD modeling.

- Professional Instruction: Instruction team with real jewelry manufacturing experience, solid design and CAD modeling knowledge base and effective communication skills.
- Practical Application: Instructed hands-on digital design creation, CAD modeling, and 3D printing experience using professional hardware and software.
- Industry-Relevant Skills: Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in design, proper engineering, and model creation for jewelry manufacturing.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

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

Course Number	JMA 3400
Clock Hours / Instructional 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

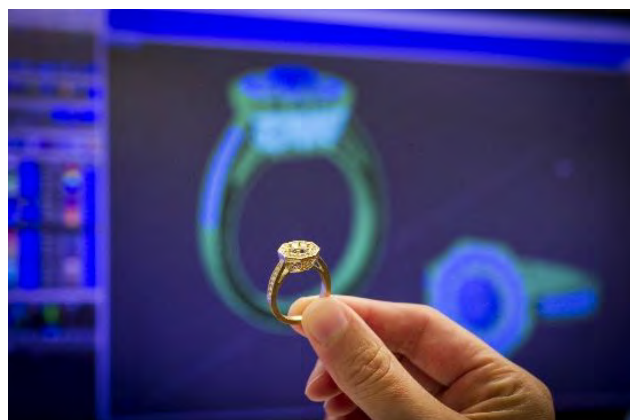
Visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/schedule for schedules. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

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, 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.

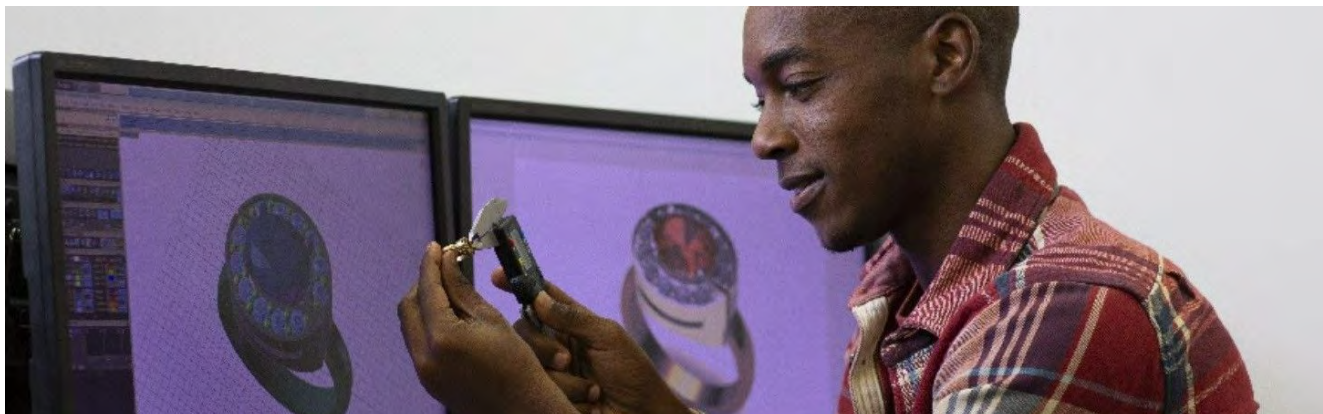
GIA provides computers and software for classroom use. For home use, the materials fee includes a graphic tablet and pen, a student license for Rhinoceros software and a one-year trial for the ZBrush software.

See "Technology Requirements" on page 28. This program requires additional specialized technology; see page 29.



Students use CAD software and 3D printers as 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 create 3D jewelry models ready for manufacturing. Topics include jewelry manufacturing techniques, jewelry-engineering fundamentals and CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing) machines. Students use CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software to develop models and photo-realistic renderings of jewelry designs.

Learning Objectives

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

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: In-depth study of jewelry engineering, and CAD modeling for jewelry manufacturing.
- Solid Foundations: Robust course content based on GIA's world-class experience in terms of hardware/software research, jewelry engineering, and CAD modeling.
- Professional Instruction: Instruction team with real jewelry manufacturing experience, solid engineering and CAD modeling knowledge base and effective communication skills.
- Practical Application: Instructed hands-on CAD modeling experience using professional hardware and software.

- Industry-Relevant Skills: Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in proper engineering and model creation for jewelry manufacturing.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

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

Course Number	JMA 400
Clock Hours / Instructional 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. Students will be notified in advance if hours will be modified.

Equipment and Materials

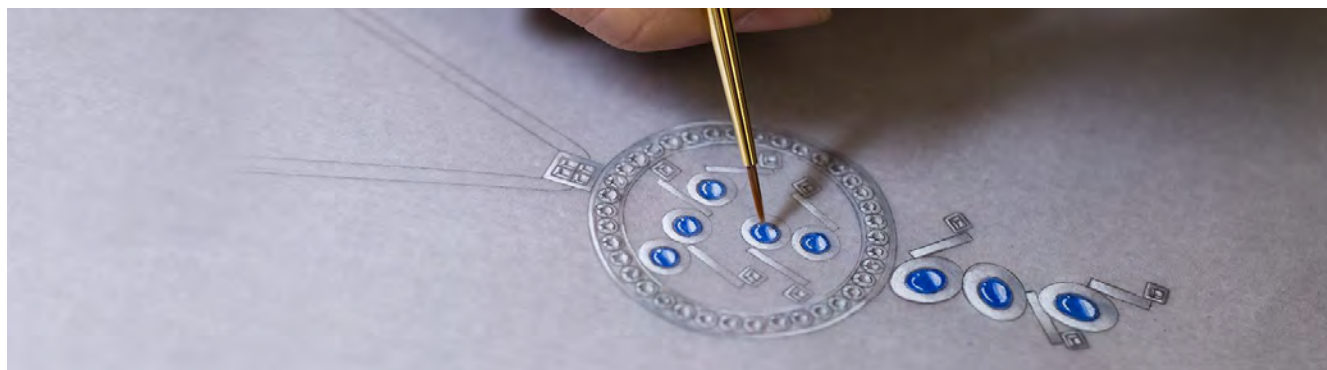
Each classroom has computers with networking software for instructors to view and interact with students' CAD designs remotely. Each student workstation has a computer with Rhinoceros software installed, two flat-screen monitors, keyboard, mouse and graphic tablet. Students receive a student license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

See "Technology Requirements" on page 28. This program requires additional specialized technology, [see page 28](#).



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

Program Highlights

- Comprehensive Curriculum: In-depth study of jewelry design, hand rendering and it's application in jewelry manufacturing.
- Solid Foundations: Robust course content based on GIA's world-class experience in classic jewelry design hand rendering methods.
- Professional Instruction: Instruction team with real jewelry design experience, solid industry knowledge base and effective communication skills.

- Practical Application: Instructed hands-on jewelry design, and hand rendering experience using traditional artists tools and materials.
- Industry-Relevant Skills: Knowledge and skills applicable to making informed decisions in jewelry design renderings for jewelry manufacturing.

Out of Class Expectations

Students should expect to spend additional time outside of scheduled class hours completing homework, studying, preparing for quizzes and examinations, and completing other assignments or learning activities identified in the course syllabus.

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	
Course Number	JMA 370
Clock Hours / Instructional 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. 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.

[See "Technology Requirements" on page 28.](#)



Hand-rendered necklace - ©GIA

Technology Requirements

All students are required to have access to the My GIA Education Portal and the Learning Management System (LMS) using a computer, tablet, or mobile device with a stable internet connection. A valid email address that is not shared with others is also required for security purposes.

General Technology Requirements

Students are expected to have regular access to the following technology to participate successfully in their courses.

Requirement	Specifications
Access and Connectivity	Access to the My GIA Education Portal and LMS using a computer, tablet, or mobile device with a stable internet connection.
Email	A valid email address that is not shared with others.
Windows Operating System	Windows 11 (64-bit) or Windows 10 (64-bit), version 22H2 or later.
macOS	macOS 12, 13, or 14 (Sonoma).
Tablets and Mobile Devices	The most recent version of iOS or Android.
Supported Browsers	PC: Latest versions of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari. Mac: Latest versions of Safari or Google Chrome.
Monitor Resolution	1280 × 720 screen resolution is recommended for accessing online curriculum.
Browser Settings	Cookies must be enabled and pop-up blockers must be disabled.
Adobe Acrobat Reader	The most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. The software is available free of charge at get.adobe.com/reader .
Compatibility	Systems may operate with Windows 8 or later or macOS 11 or later; however, support is no longer available for Windows 8.1 and earlier or macOS 11 and earlier.

Note: Technology requirements are reviewed periodically and are subject to change. Students will receive advance notice of any changes.

Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry

GIA provides the technology and software required for classroom use. However, students are strongly encouraged to have access to a Windows-based computer that meets the specifications below for practice outside of classroom hours. The estimated cost to purchase a laptop meeting the recommended specifications is \$1,800.

Component	Minimum	Recommended
Computer	Windows-based laptop or desktop with a mouse and keyboard.	Multi-button mouse with a scroll wheel.
Operating System and Processor	Windows 10 or later with a 64-bit Intel or AMD processor; ARM processors are not supported. Intel i7, 2.8 GHz or higher.	Intel i9, AMD Ryzen 7, or Threadripper.
Memory	16 GB RAM.	More than 16 GB RAM where available.
Graphics	OpenGL 4.1-capable video card with 4 GB VRAM.	NVIDIA GeForce 3000 series or later for faster photorealistic rendering.

Continued on page 29

Continued from page 28

Component	Minimum	Recommended
Storage	512 GB of available space on the main drive.	1 TB or greater; a solid-state drive is strongly recommended.
Display	1920 × 1080 resolution with 32-bit color.	Higher resolution where available.

Note: Technology requirements are reviewed periodically and are subject to change. Students will receive advance notice of any changes.

Computer Proficiency

Basic proficiency in the Windows operating system is essential for success in the program. Students should be able to create, name, and organize folders; locate, open, and save files; and work with common file types, including PDF and JPEG files. Students who need additional preparation should complete a training or refresher course in basic Windows skills before beginning the program.

Jewelry Design & Technology

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

Component	Minimum	Recommended
Computer	Windows-based laptop or desktop with a mouse and keyboard.	Multi-button mouse with a scroll wheel.
Operating System and Processor	Windows 10 or later with a 64-bit Intel or AMD processor; ARM processors are not supported. Intel i7, 2.8 GHz or higher.	Intel i9, AMD Ryzen 7, or later.
Memory	16 GB RAM.	More than 16 GB RAM where available.
Graphics	OpenGL 4.1-capable video card with 4 GB VRAM.	NVIDIA GeForce 3000 series or later for faster photorealistic rendering.
Storage	512 GB of available space on the main drive.	1 TB or greater; a solid-state drive is strongly recommended.
Display	1920 × 1080 resolution with 32-bit color.	Higher resolution where available.

GIA-provided technology: 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 of ZBrush software.

Note: Technology requirements are reviewed periodically and may be updated. Students will receive advance notice of any changes.

Computer Proficiency

Basic proficiency in the Windows operating system is essential for success in the program. Students should be able to create, name, and organize folders; locate, open, and save files; and work with common file types, including PDF and JPEG files. Students who need additional preparation should complete a training or refresher course in basic Windows skills before beginning the program.

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 Admission Documents - All Applicants

Applicants must provide the following documents.

Documents issued in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete English translation prepared by a professional translation service or qualified translator. The translation should include the translator's or translation service's name, signature, stamp or seal (if applicable), and contact information sufficient to verify the source of the translation.

☒ Government Issued Photo Identification

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents must provide a copy of a valid, government-issued photo 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 resident must provide a copy of their valid passport showing full legal name, birth date, citizenship and country of birth.

☒ Proof of Graduation

Copy of your diploma or degree, or transcript showing the graduation date for ONE of the following (not applicable for Applied Jewelry Professional program):

- 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

Foreign Credentials

Applicants whose secondary education was completed outside the United States must provide a foreign credential evaluation demonstrating that their education is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma. The evaluation must be completed by a credential evaluation agency that is a current

member of either the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or the Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE). Official translations alone do not satisfy this requirement unless included as part of the credential evaluation. To locate an approved evaluation agency, visit:

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

Extenuating Circumstances

Applicants who meet all admission requirements but are unable to obtain proof of graduation after exhausting all avenues may submit a petition of exception to GIA's admissions committee. In such cases, an applicant may be approved to take and pass an admissions test as determined by GIA and complete, sign, and notarize the Sworn Statement of a Student's Graduation from a Foreign High School form attesting that they have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent. For inquiries, contact admissions@gia.edu.

☒ 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 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 transcript or 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.

*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.

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 or 3.5 on the TOEFL iBT® 1–6 scale. <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, Duolingo English Test, and PTE academic scores are valid for two years from the date of the examination.

For ESL 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. Meet with an admissions advisor either in person or by video conference.
2. Confirm that you meet all admission requirements listed on [page 30](#).
3. Select your program and intended start date.
 - Review the class schedule at www.GIA.edu/gem-education/carlsbad/.
4. Gather the required documents listed on [page 30](#).
5. Create an account and sign in to the GIA Applicant Portal at www.GIA.edu/applynow.
6. Complete the application, upload your supporting documentation, and submit your application.
7. Meet with a financial aid advisor, if applicable, to review your financing options and determine your financial obligation.
 - See "Tuition and Fees" on [page 36](#).
 - See "Financial Aid and Scholarships" on [page 39](#).

After you have been accepted for admission and registered in your program, a registration confirmation and enrollment agreement will be sent to your email address on file. Review, sign, and submit the enrollment agreement. The agreement includes your program and course information, financial obligations, institutional policies, required disclosures, and other enrollment notices.

After your signed enrollment agreement has been received, you will receive instructions for accessing the My GIA Education Portal to make any required payment before the applicable payment deadline.

Application Deadline and Waitlists

Applications should be submitted in advance of your intended start date. Classes typically reach capacity 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.

Admissions Deferrals and Start-Date Changes

Applicants who are accepted and registered to begin a program are expected to start on their confirmed date. To support students facing legitimate circumstances, limited deferrals or start-date cancellations are permitted. Legitimate

circumstances that may warrant a deferral or cancellation include, but are not limited to, visa or immigration delays, family emergencies, health-related issues, military obligations, travel restrictions, or other unforeseen events that impact the applicant's ability to begin as scheduled.

Applicants may defer or cancel and reschedule their start date up to two (2) times without additional review. An applicant who cancels or defers a third, or subsequent time, must submit a written appeal explaining the circumstances preventing attendance. The appeal will be reviewed by the institution to determine eligibility for a future start date. The institution reserves the right to deny or limit further enrollment attempts when a pattern of repeated cancellations indicates the applicant is unable to begin as scheduled. All decisions will be made in a fair and consistent manner, based on the applicant's documented circumstances and prior enrollment history.

Orientation Requirements

Students must complete online orientation requirements and attend the scheduled in-person orientation before the first day of class. An in-person orientation is scheduled for each program prior to the start date from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT.

The in-person orientation for the Graduate Jeweler program is from 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. PT. Students who cannot attend the in-person orientation should contact Student Services at studentservices@gia.edu as soon as possible.

Students are not allowed in class until the orientation requirements are completed. Any time spent out of class to complete orientation will be considered missed hour(s) according to the attendance policy.

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.

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 +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 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. US regulations require GIA to collect 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/icsfs/mm/2027> 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 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.

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 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 is 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 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, 2027 through December 31, 2027 and are subject to change with reasonable advance 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 42](#) for more information.

Program Charges

Program	Tuition	Books	Materials	Sales Tax	CA STRF	Total Charges*	Optional Books**
GEM 2500 - Graduate Gemologist	\$27,300.00	\$520.00	\$1,858.25	\$184.31	\$0.00	\$29,862.56	\$870.00
GEM 2200 - Graduate Diamonds	\$7,350.00	\$165.00	\$146.50	\$24.14	\$0.00	\$7,685.64	\$200.00
GEM 2300 - Graduate Colored Stones	\$19,950.00	\$355.00	\$1,711.75	\$160.17	\$0.00	\$22,176.92	\$670.00
JMA 3300 - Graduate Jeweler	\$27,300.00	\$575.00	\$1,906.50	\$192.32	\$0.00	\$29,973.82	\$0.00
JMA 3400 - Jewelry Design & Technology	\$27,300.00	\$985.00	\$786.75	\$137.31	\$0.00	\$29,209.06	\$0.00
JMA 400 - Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry	\$7,300.00	\$400.00	\$297.00	\$54.02	\$0.00	\$8,051.02	\$0.00
JMA 370 - Jewelry Design	\$9,350.00	\$185.00	\$398.50	\$45.22	\$0.00	\$9,978.72	\$0.00

* Total charges do not include optional textbooks or technology for offsite use.

** Estimated costs exclude shipping, handling and applicable taxes.

Additional Program Costs

Gemology - Optional Printed Textbooks

All gemology course curriculum is accessible online in the learning management system. Students can access the 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 0](#) 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 complete coursework at home; however, it is strongly recommended that students have access to a computer that meets the minimum requirements listed [on page 0](#). 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:

- Repeat fees, calculated based on the program's hourly tuition rate and the total number of hours the student needs to repeat
- 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
- \$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 additional official transcript fee (excludes any applicable taxes and expedited shipping)
- \$70 diploma replacement fee (excludes any applicable taxes and expedited shipping)
- \$65 certificate replacement fee (excludes any applicable taxes and expedited shipping)

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.

VA Education Benefits. For students using Veterans Administration Education Benefits, GIA will not require payment of the portion of tuition and fees expected to be covered by the VA for up to 90 days from the date GIA certifies the student's enrollment, following receipt of a certificate of eligibility or a valid VAF 28-1905. For more information, please contact VABenefits@gia.edu.

Deposit Waiver. For students utilizing federal financial aid, or other third-party funding, the \$2,500 deposit may be reduced or waived, depending on the total award amount. For more information, please contact financialaid@gia.edu.

Past Due Account Balance

Students with a past-due account balance may have access to courses and other educational services suspended and may be restricted from registering for future courses or programs or receiving credentials. Continued failure to resolve a past-due balance may result in dismissal from the program. All outstanding balances must be paid or otherwise resolved before applicable restrictions are removed.

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.us@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4470, +1 760 603 4470.

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. Payments may be made by mailing a bank-issued check payable to GIA. All checks must be drawn on a U.S. bank. Cashier's checks and money orders are not accepted.

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.us@gia.edu for details. Students are responsible for any wire transfer fees that they incur.

Payment Plans. Students who are unable to pay their tuition and fees or balance in full when due may be eligible for an installment payment plan administered by Transact Payments. Payment plans may cover all or a portion of tuition and fees and are not available for lab classes or AJP courses. Plan terms, fees, and payment schedules vary. Students who miss two payments may be removed from the plan, at which time the remaining balance becomes due to GIA. Past-due accounts may result in suspension of LMS access until the account is current, which may affect the ability to complete coursework, quizzes, or exams.

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.

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. All students are encouraged to apply for federal financial aid funding if unable to meet educational costs on their own. Financial Aid representatives are available to help you understand all of your options. Students seeking financial assistance should visit www.GIA.edu/gem-education-financial-aid or contact us at financialaid@gia.edu or +1 760 603 4005.

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Federal student aid is available to those who qualify.

General Eligibility Requirements

- Be a 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 "Academic Progress Policies" on page 53.](#)

Additional requirements for each type of aid are 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 Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. Like other federal grants Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants provide money to college or career school students to help pay their education expenses. However, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants have special eligibility criteria. You may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant if you are not

eligible for a [Federal Pell Grant](#) on the basis of your Student Aid Index, but:

- you meet the remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements;
- your parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11; and
- you were under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of your parent's or guardian's death.

Federal Supplemental 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 Aid Index (SAI)

The Student Aid Index (SAI) is a formula-based number established by law. It measures a family's strength using information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form and is used to determine a student's eligibility for need-based financial assistance.

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 one program, funds are disbursed for each program separately as outlined above.

Excess Funds

Excess funds are any credit balance (funds remaining) on your student account after your tuition and fees have been paid. Funds are first applied to your tuition and fees. Any remaining funds (excess funds) are disbursed to you, the student, as living expenses 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 ["Payment Due Dates"](#) on page 37.

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.

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>.

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 zero dollars (\$0.00) 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 a 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 a 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 Education 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 studentservices@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 44.

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 45.

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 percent of their program, a Return of Title IV calculation is performed to determine the portion of aid earned. This calculation may result in the return of unearned funds, which could create a balance owed to the institution. See "[Return of Title IV Funds](#)" on page 46.

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 calculates pro-rata tuition using the student's last day of attendance (LDA) and the number of scheduled instructional hours elapsed through the LDA.

1. **Per-hour rate** = Total tuition / Total program hours
2. **Pro-Rata Tuition (owed)** = Per-hour rate x Scheduled hours elapsed (through LDA)

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 \$27,300.00 (tuition), \$2,562.56 (books, materials, sales tax) and \$0.00 (CA STRF fee). The student has paid in full and retained all books and materials.

Amount Retained by GIA

Per-hour rate = \$27,300.00 / 780 = \$35.00 per hour

Pro-Rata Tuition owed through LDA = \$35.00 x 312 = \$10,920.00

Books, Materials and Sales Tax = \$2,562.56

CA STRF Fee (non-refundable) = \$0.00

Total Amount Retained by GIA = \$10,920.00 + \$2,562.56 + \$0.00 (STRF) = \$13,482.56

Refund Amount

\$29,862.56 (paid by student)

- \$13,482.56 (retained by GIA)

= **\$16,380.00 refund to the student**

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 the date the student 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 at +1 800 421 7250 ext. 4005 or financialaid@gia.edu to advise you on your specific situation. See "Withdrawal of Enrollment" on page 44 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 U.S. Department of Education's Return of Title IV Funds formula.

A student who 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 of 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. 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.

Education Advising

GIA's Education Advising supports students throughout their academic journey by providing guidance on academic progress, program requirements, and institutional policies. Students may meet with the Education Advisor to review academic standing, including academic or attendance warning and probation status, and to better understand expectations for continued enrollment, progression, and potential outcomes if academic or attendance benchmarks are not met.

Education Advising also supports students by answering questions related to course sequencing, enrollment timing, and program structure, and by advising students on how to best plan remaining coursework based on individual circumstances. Student progress is monitored throughout enrollment, with proactive outreach and support provided to help identify barriers that may impact success. Advising sessions focus on finding solutions or best practices to help support students. Advising sessions may occur in person or virtually through student-initiated appointments or advisor outreach.

For information, or to schedule an appointment, contact Education Advising at edadvising@gia.edu or call +1 760 603 4134.

Disability Services and Accommodation

The school director'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.

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 located on the [My GIA Education Portal](#). 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

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 edrecords@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 at edrecords@gia.edu.

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

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 and in the My GIA Education Portal. Students may provide a preferred first name at the time of admission or anytime thereafter on the My GIA Education Portal.

Transcripts

Current students may download an unofficial transcript on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.GIA.edu>. Graduates may contact us at edrecords@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 (excludes any applicable taxes and expedited shipping) for each transcript ordered. Contact us at edrecords@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/drecoc/GIA_Education_Verification-Request.pdf. For information about directory information that may be released, see "FERPA" on page 63.

Letters of Good Standing

Upon request, GIA will issue a letter of good standing, which is 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 edrecords@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312 or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Diplomas and Certificates

Students who have satisfied all graduation requirements and whose credential has been conferred will receive both a digital and a printed diploma or certificate.

Digital diplomas and certificates are typically available within one week after conferral. Printed diplomas and certificates are mailed to the student's address of record and may take up to six weeks to arrive. Delivery to international addresses may require additional time.

Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address. Address changes may be submitted through the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu> by completing the Modify Personal Information form or by emailing edrecords@gia.edu.

Students will receive an email when their digital credential is available and a separate email confirming shipment of their printed diploma or certificate.

Damaged or Missing Diplomas and Certificates

Students should notify GIA in writing if a printed diploma or certificate is damaged in transit or has not been received after the expected delivery timeframe (up to six weeks for U.S. addresses; international delivery may take longer).

If a printed diploma or certificate is damaged in transit or confirmed as not received after the expected delivery timeframe, GIA will provide one replacement at no charge. A photograph may be required in cases of damage.

For assistance, contact edrecords@gia.edu or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Diploma and Certificate Holds

Diplomas and certificates will not be released until all academic and financial obligations to GIA have been satisfied.

Reprint Diplomas and Certificates

Replacement diplomas and certificates may be ordered for the current replacement fee, plus applicable expedited shipping charges. Reissued credentials are produced in the current format, include the reissue date, and bear the signatures of GIA's current school officials.

To order a replacement, visit <https://www.parchment.com/students> or contact Student Records at edrecords@gia.edu, +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312, or +1 760 603 4000 ext. 7312.

Academic Credentials Usage Policy

Academic credentials from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) are highly respected in the gem and jewelry industry. Recipients of GIA diplomas should append their academic designation to their name and follow specific usage standards. Credentials can be displayed in their entirety, but must not imply affiliation or endorsement by GIA. Only diplomas or degrees should be listed on business cards, while individual coursework should be on resumes.

For detailed guidance, please refer to the GIA Usage Guidelines located here: <https://www.gia.edu/copyrights-trademarks#diplomas>.

Career Services

Career Services offers job placement assistance, resources, and opportunities to help GIA students and graduates begin or advance their careers. Students and graduates have access to the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center, targeted hiring events, and mentorship events. While employment is not guaranteed, Career Services is committed to providing personalized guidance and professional development support to help prepare you for a successful career in the Gem and Jewelry Industry.

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 4450.

Career Advising

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

Career and education goals. Advisors help you identify career pathways and understand the experience, education, and next steps needed to support students' and graduates' professional advancement.

Resume and cover letter. Advisors assist in preparing your resume and cover letter, offering tips to highlight your strengths, experience and education effectively.

Interview preparation. Advisors provide guidance on researching and preparing for interviews, anticipating questions, formulating responses and conducting yourself professionally. Mock interviews are also available on the GIA Gem & Jewelry Career Center.

Job search and placement. Advisors provide resources and strategies to support students and graduates throughout their job search. Career Services maintains relationships with industry employers and offers opportunities such as job listings, resume referrals, and hiring events.

Professional development sessions. Advisors offer monthly opportunities ranging from information tables to workshops designed to support career growth. Topics may include interview preparation, resume development, workplace professionalism, networking, and other career-related skills. Whether entering the job market or already working in the industry, these sessions provide practical tools to support professional success.

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

Symlicity App:



Student Outcomes

As part of GIA's commitment to providing prospective and current students with transparent consumer information, graduation rates, placement rates, and other required student disclosures are published on GIA's Student Consumer Information webpage. Students may access this information at www.gia.edu/gem-education/student-consumer-information.

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 60 days before your arrival and be sure to use a reputable third-party provider. GIA has no responsibility to assist a student in finding housing.

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 property owner 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 \$3,200 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, electric bike chargers, 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.sdmcs.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.

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 multilingual 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:



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 provides other assistance such as travel, health care and insurance, housing and obtaining a driver's license.

For questions, information, or to schedule an appointment, contact us at intladvisor@gia.edu or call +1 800 421 7250 ext. 7312.

Learning Management System

Students have 24/7 online access to the 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.

GIA Alumni Collective™

The GIA Alumni Collective was built for alumni, by alumni to empower students and graduates with a thriving community, social and networking opportunities, and strong connections for life. Spanning a global network of more than 165,000 alumni across 58 chapters, alumni can gather in person at signature events, discover regional alumni through their local chapters, and connect virtually via the online Community.

Graduates who successfully complete a GIA diploma or certificate program become members of the GIA Alumni Collective. Members gain access to the Alumni Directory, professional development opportunities, and connections with gem and jewelry professionals around the globe. For more information, visit collective.GIA.edu or contact alumni@gia.edu.

Professional Development

In addition to its accredited diploma and certificate programs, GIA offers non-accredited Professional Development opportunities for individuals at different stages of their gem and jewelry careers. These offerings support those entering the industry, as well as experienced professionals seeking to expand their skills and knowledge. Professional Development offerings may include the Applied Jewelry Professional™ (AJP®) program, [GIA NextGem™](#) digital badge courses, seminars and workshops, and customized education solutions for businesses.

Visit the [GIA website](#) for information about the Applied Jewelry Professional program and current or upcoming Professional Development opportunities.

Professional Development offerings are avocational in nature, do not lead to employment, and are not included within the scope of GIA's institutional accreditation or state postsecondary education approvals, including ACCSC, DEAC, and BPPE.

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.

Academic Integrity Policy

GIA highly values academic integrity, which requires students to honestly and accurately represent their own work, knowledge, skills, and accomplishments. While collaborative learning is encouraged, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism in all academic activities.

Any act that provides an unfair academic advantage, misrepresents a student's own work or abilities, compromises the integrity of the educational process, or otherwise violates the standards of honesty and ethical conduct expected of a GIA student and future graduate may constitute a violation of this policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Examples of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

Cheating. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, assistance, technology, or resources in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism. Presenting the words, ideas, research, creative work, or intellectual property of another person or source as one's own without appropriate acknowledgment.

Falsification. Fabricating, altering, omitting, or misrepresenting information, records, data, or academic work.

Facilitation. Assisting, encouraging, enabling, or participating in another person's violation of this Academic Integrity Policy.

Unauthorized Use of Artificial Intelligence. Using AI tools or AI-generated content in a manner not permitted by the instructor or institution.

GIA reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, including conduct not specifically identified in the examples above.

Academic Progress Policies

Students are expected to meet institutional academic standards in all courses and programs. All students must meet these institutional standards in order to remain enrolled, regardless of financial aid status. GIA monitors each student's academic progress to ensure they are moving toward successful completion of their program. Students can monitor their progress in the learning management system.

Students who do not meet the academic standards established for their program will be placed on Academic Advising.

As part of the Academic Advising process, the student will meet with a designated school official to review their current academic standing, identify any barriers or challenges affecting academic performance, and discuss available resources and strategies for success. Together, the student and school official will develop an Academic Improvement Plan that outlines the specific academic requirements the student must meet, the timeframe for improvement, and the date of the next evaluation period.

A student's progress will be monitored throughout the Academic Improvement Plan period by the instructor and designated school official. Students who successfully meet the requirements of their Academic Improvement Plan by the specified evaluation date will be removed from Academic Advising.

Students who fail to meet the requirements of their Academic Improvement Plan by the specified evaluation date will be evaluated to determine the appropriate repeat timeframes based on their program, and the student's academic progress.

When a student is required to repeat coursework, the institution will determine the next available open seat. If the next available date begins within 45 days of the student's last date of attendance, the student may be placed on Intent to Return (ITR) until the course becomes available. If the next available date begins more than 45 days from the student's last date of attendance, the student will be administratively withdrawn and re-entered into the program at the first available open seat.

A student's first occurrence requiring repeated coursework is approved automatically and does not require an appeal. Any subsequent occurrence of failing to meet academic standards may result in dismissal from the program. Students seeking to continue enrollment following dismissal must submit an Appeal for consideration by the school. If the appeal is approved, the student may be required to repeat time as determined by the school.

A student will be dismissed at any time it becomes mathematically impossible for the student to complete the program within the maximum allowable timeframe.

Repeated Coursework

Students required to repeat time to satisfy graduation requirements may do so based on seat availability and their ability to complete the program within the maximum timeframe permitted. Applicable repeat fees will apply; see [page 37](#).

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) - Title IV Recipients only

In addition to meeting institutional academic standards, students receiving Title IV financial aid must also meet federal Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements to maintain financial aid eligibility.

SAP is evaluated at the midpoint of each 780 clock-hour program. For example, in a 780 clock-hour program, SAP is evaluated when the student reaches 390 scheduled clock hours.

Students who fail to meet SAP requirements at the midpoint are placed on Academic Warning/Financial Aid Warning and notified in writing. Students must successfully meet SAP standards by the end of the next payment period (the second 390-hour segment) to be removed from warning status.

If, at any point during that payment period, a student is also placed on Academic Advising and fails to meet the conditions of their Academic Improvement Plan, the student may be subject to dismissal prior to the end of the payment period.

Students dismissed for not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) may appeal for reinstatement. Appeals must explain the circumstances that affected academic performance, how those circumstances have been resolved, and why the student should be readmitted. Approved appeals result in reinstatement on Academic Probation;

during this period, students remain enrolled but are not eligible for financial aid.

Maximum Timeframe - All Students

All students must complete their program within a maximum timeframe not exceeding 150% of the published program length, measured in clock hours. A student is ineligible to continue when it becomes mathematically impossible to complete the program within this timeframe. Approved leaves of absence (LOAs) are excluded from the maximum timeframe measurement.

Attendance Policy

The curriculum is intensive, 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.

Attendance is taken every morning and at each scheduled break in full-hour increments. A student who misses *any* part of a scheduled class hour will be marked absent for a full hour missed. For example, if a student arrives 10 minutes late to class after lunch, they are marked for one hour missed. Students are responsible for monitoring their own attendance and understanding how many hours they have missed in each course or program.

Programs and Course Structure

- Single-course programs: Attendance requirements apply to the program as a whole.
- Multi-course programs: Attendance requirements apply individually to each course within the program. Students must meet the attendance requirements in each course in order to successfully complete the overall program.

Attendance Warning

Students who are nearing the midpoint of the maximum allowable absence hours may receive an Attendance Warning, issued in writing. This warning serves as an opportunity to correct attendance patterns before probation is initiated.

Attendance Probation

Students who accumulate absences totaling six hours less than the maximum allowed will be placed on Attendance Probation and notified in writing. This status indicates that the student is at serious risk of exceeding the attendance limit and must take immediate corrective action. Students

who exceed the maximum allowable absence hours are subject to dismissal from the program.

Additional Consequences

Students who do not meet the conditions of their attendance probation may be required to repeat part or all of the course. In such cases, students are responsible for any associated tuition and fees.

Attendance Charts

Attendance requirements, including maximum hours permitted to be missed, are outlined in the chart provided for each program (or course, where applicable).

Maximum Allowable Missed Hours

Course	Clock Hours	Maximum Missed Hours
Graduate Colored Stones	570	47
Graduate Diamonds	210	21
Jewelry Design	270	23
Jewelry Design & Technology	780	68 ¹
Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry	210	21
Bench Basics	60	6
Bench Level 1	180	18
Bench Level 2	180	18
Bench Level 3	150	12
Bench Level 4	150	12
Graduate Jeweler Capstone	60	6

1. A maximum of 21 hours may be missed in the first seven weeks of the program.

Class	Class Hours	Maximum Missed Hours
Diamond Grading Lab; Gem Identification Lab	35	3*
Colored Stone Grading Lab	21	2*

* Students cannot miss any hours on the first day of class.

Clock Hours

A clock hour is a 60-minute period consisting of at least 50 minutes of instructor-led or faculty-supervised instruction, laboratory work, shop training, or other approved educational activity. Depending on the class schedule, a clock hour may include up to a 10-minute break or may consist of 60 continuous minutes of instruction. Breaks longer than 10 minutes, meal periods, and other noninstructional time are not counted as clock hours. No more than one clock hour may be credited during any 60-minute period.

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 school director'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.
- Photography is not permitted in the classroom without prior approval.

Program-specific policies may be provided and reviewed during orientation.

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
- Failure to satisfy financial obligations to the institution in accordance with established policies and agreements
- 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 from a GIA program, course, or class must submit a formal appeal to be considered for readmission. Submission of an appeal does not guarantee readmission, which is at the sole discretion of GIA.

Appeal Process

To request readmission, students must submit a completed *Appeal for Readmission Form*, along with any supporting documentation, to the Admissions Committee for review. The committee will evaluate the information provided and make a recommendation regarding readmission.

The school director, or their designee, will notify the student of the decision in writing within 10 business days of receiving the completed appeal. If additional time is required to complete the review, the student will be notified.

If the appeal is approved, the notification will include any terms or conditions of readmission.

A student may submit a maximum of three appeals for readmission.

Behavioral Dismissals

Students dismissed for violations of GIA policies or the Student Code of Conduct may appeal their dismissal by submitting a written *Appeal for Readmission* in accordance with the Student Conduct procedures. The appeal must explain the basis for requesting reconsideration and include any supporting documentation.

Behavioral dismissal appeals are reviewed through the same process described above. If the initial appeal is denied, the student must wait one year before submitting another appeal. A maximum of three appeals for a behavioral dismissal will be considered.

Exam Policy

Testing measures a student's comprehension of the curriculum and mastery of skills. The following rules apply:

- Missing a scheduled quiz or exam will result in a score of zero.
- Quizzes and exams may be void if a classroom evacuation occurs, and rescheduling will follow as needed.
- All quizzes and exams are closed-book unless the instructor indicates otherwise.
- Quizzes and exams must be completed within the specified time limit and all submissions are final.
- Students with English as a second language may use a printed English translation dictionary, subject to instructor approval; electronic translators are not permitted.
- 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

On Campus Programs and Lab Classes

Progress and quality of student's work in their program of study is measured by a system of letter grades and grade percentages as shown below. Students who achieve a GPA of 3.7 or higher in their program of study will graduate with honors, and this distinction will be noted on their diploma.

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Grade Points
A+	100-98	4.0
A	97-95	4.0
A-	94-90	3.7
B+	89-88	3.3
B	87-85	3.0
B-	84-80	2.7
C+	79-78	2.3
C	77-75	2.0
C-	74-70	1.7
D+	69-68	1.3
D	67-65	1.0
D-	64-60	0.7
F	59 below	0.0
L	Leave of Absence	Student has partially completed coursework; remaining work to be finished at a future date. No impact on GPA.
INC	Incomplete	This is a temporary grade that is converted to a letter grade or SWD based on the final grade earned. Students who fail to complete their coursework within the agreed-upon time receive a final grade of SWD.
SWD	Student Withdrawal	Student was withdrawn from their program of enrollment after the cancellation period.
R	Repeat	Course has been retaken and the original grade is replaced by the new grade for academic record purposes.

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 the learning management system 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 learning management system.

Graduating With Honors. Graduating with honors is a tribute that recognizes academic achievement. Students who have achieved a 3.7 GPA or higher in a program will qualify for honors distinction.

Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation, students must successfully complete all required courses and other program requirements within the applicable maximum timeframe. Students must earn a minimum grade of 75% in each required course, as determined by the grading criteria and learning outcomes outlined in the applicable course syllabus, and achieve a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 75%.

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. Students enrolled in lab classes are not eligible for a LOA. GIA may approve an LOA for a documented family emergency, serious illness, or active military duty, as well as for involuntary reasons such as local, state, or national emergencies, pandemics, or other extenuating circumstances.

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 school director prior to the expiration of their original LOA.

Requesting Leave. LOA requests must be submitted in writing to the school director in advance and include supporting documentation. The 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 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 generally return to the program at the point where they left off prior to the approved Leave of Absence. 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. Withdrawn students seeking readmission may be required to re-enroll from the beginning of the program at the current tuition and fees.

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 school director 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 representative to evaluate their individual situation and explain the effect that a failure to return from an LOA has on any loan repayment terms.

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.

Make-Up Hours

The attendance policy allows for a limited number of missed hours; make-up hours are not available. Accommodation is made for an approved religious observance. Accommodation requests are to be submitted to the school director's office for consideration using the form located on the My GIA Education Portal at <https://education.gia.edu>.

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 student services 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.

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

Administrative Policies

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

Student Conduct and Discipline

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 62. 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. When a student receives a behavioral warning or is placed on probation, they are given an opportunity to realign their conduct with institutional standards and expectations. However, any further misconduct or failure to meet the conditions of probation may result in dismissal. In cases involving potential criminal conduct, GIA will determine in its sole discretion whether appropriate law enforcement or other authority must be notified.

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.

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.

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.

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 school director'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 52](#).

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.

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.

Students' Rights and Institutional Compliance

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.

The following steps should be followed whenever appropriate:

Step	Classroom Concerns	Administrative Concerns
1.	Instructor	Administrative Department Leader
2.	Education Manager	Student Affairs Manager
3.	School Director	School Director

If the student has attempted the steps above and 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 GIA's Education Compliance department at ed-compliance@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, a designated school official 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 reporting a concern directly to the school, they may report it to GIA's Education Compliance department by emailing ed-compliance@gia.edu.

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 [ACCSC - Student Corner - 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.

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.

The Office of Student Assistance and Relief is available to support prospective students, current students, or past students of private postsecondary educational institutions in making informed decisions, understanding their rights, and navigating available services and relief options. The office may be reached by calling +1 888 370 7589 or by visiting <https://www.osar.bppe.ca.gov/>.

Title IX Compliance

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment and pregnancy or related conditions in any Education Program or Activity operated by a recipient that receives federal financial assistance.

As an educational institution subject to Title IX, Gemological Institute of America, Inc. ("GIA," the "Institute," or "our") has adopted this Title IX Non-Discrimination Grievance Policy and Process. As set forth in detail herein, GIA:

- Does not discriminate on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment and pregnancy or related conditions, 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 and pregnancy or related conditions 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.

Inquiries about this Policy, or the application of Title IX may be referred to GIA's Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Hazing Prevention Notice

In accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, GIA prohibits hazing and is committed to maintaining an educational environment that promotes the health, safety,

and dignity of all students. Hazing in any form is prohibited, regardless of an individual's willingness to participate.

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

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.

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 and Graduate Gemologist programs. 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.

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 items 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 upon issuance of a parking permit. Students must have a valid driver's license to receive a campus parking permit, and all vehicles must display a current permit. A replacement fee will be assessed for parking permits that are lost or stolen. 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.

Campus Operations

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 request form is available on the [My GIA Education Portal](#). 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.

Animals on Campus

Service animals are permitted on campus. A service animal is a dog or, in specific cases, a miniature horse that is individually trained to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. All other animals, including emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals, and pets are prohibited on campus grounds, including all facilities and parking lots.

The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of the service animal's handler. Service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times. The handler is responsible for any damages caused by the service animal. Service animals may be restricted from certain areas of campus for health and safety reasons.

A service animal may be asked to leave a GIA facility or program if the animal's behavior or presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, or if the service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it. Service animals that are not housebroken can also be asked to leave GIA facilities and programs.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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, and there is a fee to replace lost badges. Upon completion of the program and before graduation, or if a student is no longer enrolled before their end date, ID cards or badges must be returned to the instructor or to Student Service.

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.

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CAMPUS LOCATIONS

GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Carlsbad, California – Headquarters

+1 800 421 7250 | admissions@gia.edu | www.GIA.edu

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.

+66 2779 6100 | giabkkedu@gia.edu | <https://bangkok.GIA.edu>

Hong Kong, China

GIA Hong Kong Limited

+852 3166 7001 | giahongkong@gia.edu | <https://hongkong.GIA.edu>

London, United Kingdom

GIA England

+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