

February 1, 2025

Effective immediately, all Health and Style Institute locations are now permanently closed.

Resources for students and information for employees can be found at www.healthandstyle.edu.

Health and Style Institute is proud to have operated for over 13 years, during which time it successfully licensed, graduated, and placed thousands of students in various careers within the field of cosmetic arts. Through the entirety of its history, Health and Style Institute maintained a strong reputation for regulatory compliance; always meeting and exceeding its many required fiscal, operational, and regulatory metrics at the State, Accreditation, and Federal levels.

The primary reasons for closure include:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) processing complications, which resulted in Health and Style Institute's former Financial Aid Servicer's (FAS) inability to pay Federal Student Aid to student accounts as agreed.
 - While the FAFSA processing issues, which made national news in 2024, caused some initial frustrations for many FASs, some FASs caused no interruption in service and funding to their schools, others resolved their technical difficulties quickly, but Health and Style Institute's former FAS continued to have processing, funding, reporting, and compliance issues throughout Q3 and Q4 of 2024.
 - When a FAS causes issues of non-compliance with reporting or funding requests, the School is ultimately held responsible by its regulators, even though the School was not the cause of the problems.
 - Although previously financially healthy (as evidenced by, amongst other metrics, consistently high United States Department of Education Composite Scores) small, privately owned schools cannot survive such an egregious disruption to cash flow, as was caused by the former Financial Aid Servicer.
 - The problems created by Health and Style Institute's former FAS were exacerbated by their ongoing false promises of immediately forthcoming resolutions, which never occurred.
 - The related Financial Aid processing stress and industry news resulted in the loss of half of Health and Style Institute's Financial Aid staff; some quit abruptly and cited emotional distress.
 - The Georgia Board of Cosmetology and Barbers, from April 2024 through the date of this notice, has been non-responsive to programmatic approval requests and inquiries about a relocation of Health and Style Institute's Kennesaw campus.
 - Countless emails and letters were sent over the past 10 months. Many hours were spent on the phone trying to get answers from the Georgia Board and the Secretary of State's Office.
 - Health and Style Institute even engaged a regulatory/political law firm to compel a response from the Board's Executive Director or the Secretary of State's office.
 - All efforts resulted in no response/decision on program approvals and silence on the Lease inquiries from the Board's Executive Director, Board Members, General Customer Service, and the Secretary of State's office.
 - Schools rely on the responsiveness of all regulators since schools are prohibited from making programmatic or location-based additions and/or changes without the express permission of all regulators.
 - This latest issue is not the first time that the Georgia Board jeopardized Health and Style Institute's business survival. The Board's failure to comply with 34 CFR 600.9(a) in 2013 and 2014 resulted in the United States Department of Education's decision to prohibit and/or delay new school approvals in Georgia until the Board came into compliance.
 - Health and Style Institute would like to note that all of its other regulators including, the State of Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission, the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners, the National Accrediting Commission of Career Arts and Sciences, and specifically the local staff and

leadership at the United States Department of Education's region covering Georgia and North Carolina, have always been promptly responsive, informative, and helpful.

- New regulations imposed on vocational schools including, without limitation, Gainful Employment, Letter of Credit Requirements, Personal Guarantees, and long wait times for the pre-acquisition review and approval process also make it virtually impossible for schools to sell or merge, even if the intent is to prevent a closure and protect the best interests of the institution's students, employees, and the communities they serve.

Although improvements to FAFSA processing, a responsive and reformed Georgia Board of Cosmetology and Barbers, and revisions to new and oppressive regulations can no longer save Health and Style Institute, they are critical to ensuring the vocational training industry's survival.