

To Students of the Atlanta School of Massage:

It is with great regret that I must inform you that, due to declining enrollments and related losses, we have determined that the School cannot continue to operate and hold classes and consequently, it will be closing as of September 4, 2024.

After evaluating options for you to complete your academic programs at other area postsecondary institutions, we have reached an agreement with the nearby International School of Skincare, Nailcare and Massage Therapy (the International School), just some 5 miles away in Sandy Springs, to accept all of our students who choose to transfer there to complete their programs.

The International School, an accredited school eligible for federal student aid, has indicated it will accept our students as transfers, waive admission and registration fees, charge the same tuition rates as ours, and expedite the admission and enrollment process. The School has also made arrangements with the International School to maintain primary academic and financial aid records.

As further options, we have identified some other area institutions that have similar academic programs. Information on these institutions is provided in the attachment to this notice.

We are hopeful that all of you will choose to continue and complete your academic program at the International School (or some other area institution). Still, if you decide not to do so, the attachment to this notice provides information on how you can seek a discharge of any federal student loans you have taken out to attend the School.

We have given notice of our planned closing to the Georgia Non-Public Postsecondary Education Commission (our state licensing agency), the Accrediting Commission for Career Colleges & Schools (our accrediting agency), and the U.S. Department of Education. Contact information for these agencies is provided in the attachment to this notice.

We understand that you may have questions, and school administration members will try to respond to all questions as promptly as possible. We suggest that you direct all questions to:
Contact@Atlantaschoolmassage.edu

In closing, I want to again tell you that the School's leadership team and I are very disappointed that we have not been able to overcome the financial difficulty that we, like many other colleges, have experienced from persistent lower enrollments, and thus have found it necessary to close. We are very grateful for the opportunity we had to serve you and we wish you every success in the completion of your studies and the pursuit of your careers.

Sincerely

Traci Daly-Smith, Campus President

How do I get a copy of my School's official transcript?

Students can order printed copies of official transcripts for no charge by using the form at this link,

<https://forms.gle/D3DtJ5HMwE4t2836>

For identification purposes, please be prepared to provide the following: last date attended, last four of social security number, and birth date. Please provide a complete mailing address for delivery.

Does Your State Offer A Tuition Recovery Fund?

Some states provide funds that generally reimburse charges not covered by other sources. For example, a closed school loan discharge would cover the amount of your federal student loans, while tuition recovery fund payments could cover expenses, such as private loans and cash payments that were directed toward tuition payments at the closed school. Contact the Georgia Non-Public Postsecondary Commission (<https://gnpec.georgia.gov/>) for more information.

Do You Qualify For A Closed School Loan Discharge?

September 4, 2024, serves as the institution's last full day of educational instruction and is the date used to determine potential eligibility for closed school loan discharge.

There are certain eligibility requirements to qualify for a closed school loan discharge; if the Department of Education has sufficient information to determine you qualify for a discharge, your loan will generally be automatically discharged one year after your school closes. However, you may always apply to get a discharge sooner if you qualify. Please be sure to review important information regarding this matter, including automatic closed school discharge information, at the following site:

<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school>

Student loan borrowers (and parents who borrowed PLUS loans on behalf of students) may be eligible for a 100-percent discharge of your federal student loans borrowed to attend the Atlanta School of Massage under either of these circumstances:

- The School closed while you were enrolled, and you did not complete your program because of the closure. If you were on an approved leave of absence from the School for purposes of the federal student aid programs, you are considered to have been enrolled at the school, or
- You withdrew from all classes before March 7, 2024. A closed school loan discharge normally applies only if you withdrew (without completing your program) within 180 days of the school's closing date, or if you were attending when the school closed.

You are not eligible for discharge of your loans if your school closed and any of the following is true:

- You graduated or completed your program at the closed school.
- You're completing or have graduated from a teach-out agreement at another school approved by the school's accrediting agency and, if applicable, the school's state authorizing agency.

- You're completing or have graduated from a program of study at a different branch or location of the school that closed or at another school to which you transferred.
- You withdrew before **March 4, 2024**, unless you can demonstrate an exceptional circumstance.

If your new school doesn't count your School credits or if you decide not to use your credits towards completion of a comparable program at another school, or if you do not complete a teach-out of your program at another school, you may instead apply for a closed school loan discharge of the federal loans you took for your School coursework and hours

What is the Loan Discharge Process?

If you meet the eligibility requirements for a discharge of loans you obtained to attend a school that closed, your loan holder will automatically send you an application you can submit to your loan servicer.

Or, you can contact your loan servicer directly about the application process for getting your loan discharged. Be sure to continue to make payments on your loan while your discharge application is being processed.

Automatic Closed School Loan Discharge

If your school closes on or after July 1, 2023, and you meet the eligibility requirements for a closed school discharge of your loans obtained to attend the closed school, you will generally receive an automatic closed school discharge one year after the date ED establishes as the school's official closure date. This discharge will be initiated by ED, and you will be notified by your loan servicer. Please be sure to review important information regarding this matter, including automatic closed school discharge information, at the following site:

<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school> .

Although this closed school loan discharge is granted automatically after one year has passed since your school's closure, you can always apply for and receive a closed school discharge as soon as your school's official closure date is confirmed by the U.S. Department of Education.

If you 1) attended a school that closed less than one year ago, 2) meet the eligibility requirements for a closed school discharge, and 3) want your loans discharged, contact your loan servicer about applying for a closed school discharge now instead of waiting for one year to receive an automatic closed school discharge.

Identifying Your Servicer

The following are loan servicers for loans that the U.S Department of Education (ED) owns. To find out who your loan servicer is,

- [visit your account dashboard](#) at studentaid.gov and scroll down to the "My Loan Servicers" section, or
- call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243.

Loan Servicer Contact

Edfinancial 1-855-337-6884

MOHELA 1-888-866-4352

Aidvantage 1-800-722-1300

Nelnet 1-888-486-4722

ECSI 1-866-313-3797

Default Resolution Group

1-800-621-3115 (TTY: 1-877-825-9923 for the deaf or hard of hearing)

I have some accreditation questions, who do I talk to?

Accrediting Commission for Career Schools & Colleges (ACCSC):

Telephone: (703) 247-4212

Website: <https://www.accsc.org/>

I have some state agency questions, who do I talk to?

Georgia Non-Public Postsecondary Education Commission

Telephone: (770) 414-3300

Website: <https://gnpec.georgia.gov/>

If I choose to participate in the International School teach-out, what will my diploma and transcripts say?

Students who complete their hours and programs within the teach-out will receive a diploma from the International School and a transcript denoting the conferral of hours by the School.

How will my hours transfer from the School to the International School?

Prior to enrollment, the International School will accept all hours you have completed at the School in a satisfactory manner as indicated on your School transcript (meaning you did not fail a unit of instruction). The International School will not impose a cap on the number of hours accepted in order to assist our students in completing their programs.

Does Your Federal Pell Grant Eligibility Reset?

The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds you may receive over your lifetime is limited by federal law to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding you can receive each year is equal to 100 percent, the six-year equivalent is 600 percent. For more information, visit StudentAid.gov/Pell-leu. If you are eligible for the restoration of Pell Grant eligibility, your restoration will be done automatically; there is nothing for you to do. If your Pell Grant eligibility has been restored for the current award year, and/or you have regained eligibility bringing you under the 600-percent limitation, you will be notified by email.

Can You Transfer Your Hours And Coursework To a School Other Than International School and its Teach-Out?

Instead of applying for a closed school loan discharge, you may want to keep the hours and coursework you've earned from the Atlanta School of Massage and transfer those hours to another school with a comparable program. If you do transfer into a comparable program offered by another school (other than the International School), that other school will evaluate your School transcript, course work, and hours completed in the subjects covered in your course of study, and will decide how many hours to accept for the work you've already completed, as well as identify the coursework you need to complete your program of study. It is up to the other school to decide how many hours to give you. Remember, if you transfer the hours you've earned at the School toward a comparable program at another school and you complete or are in the process of completing that program, you will not be eligible to receive a closed school loan discharge for those hours.

What are the tuition and fees for the Teach-Out institution?

Check out the tuition charges for the International School in its Catalog available at this link, <https://issnmtschoo.com/school-catalog/>, for other schools, ask them for access to their catalog and contact information on who to contact with questions.

If you are not interested in participating in the Teach-Out with ISSNMT, here are two similar institutions you can contact.

(Esthetics)

Health and Style Institute (Branch Campus)

<https://healthandstyle.edu/>

2450 Piedmont Rd, Suites 300 & 100

Atlanta, GA 30324

Phone (404) 736-6777

(Massage)

Gwinnett College

<https://www.gwinnettcollege.edu/>

1455 Old Alabama Road

Suite 150

Roswell, GA 30076

(770) 457-2021

Accessing Information About Your Federal Financial Aid

If you need to access information about your federal financial aid history, log in at StudentAid.gov/login.

If you filed a FAFSA® form identifying Atlanta School of Massage as the institution you would be attending and need the information forwarded to another institution, visit fafsa.gov to make changes to your filed application.

We Are Here To Help

ED is committed to helping you as you plan the next steps in continuing your education. We encourage you to avoid paying for services that Federal Student Aid offers for free. Please visit StudentAid.gov/closures to view common Q&As asked by students of other closed schools.

For help understanding the information presented in this fact sheet, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the hearing impaired 1-800-730-8913

Student FAQ's

We encourage all students to strongly consider transferring to ISSNMT as soon as possible. Their facility will be hosting an Open House for all current students. You can get many of your questions answered by their team

Where: ISSNMT (International School of Skin, Nailcare & Massage Therapy)

Location: 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

Dates: Sunday, September 8th from 1:00 pm to 5:00pm

Monday, September 9th from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Admissions: Heather Johnson, Enrollment Services Manager
hjohnson@issnschool.com, 404-843-1005 Ext 113

Main Phone: 404-843-1005

Campus Owner: Pam Jones, ptjones@aeholding.net, Office Line: 404-843-1005 Ext 103 Cell 404-293-2538

Q) When can I clear out my locker?

- A) You may come to the ASM campus on Friday, 09/06/2024, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM to clean out your locker and gather any other personal belongings. The building will not be accessible after this date.

Q) What are my options if I don't want to continue at ISSNMT?

- A) If you choose not to transfer to ISSNMT, you can request an incomplete transcript and transfer to another institution offering the same program. However, transferable hours to another institution other than ISSNMT can not be determined.
- B) Should you choose to transfer to ISSNMT, you will receive full credit for all completed coursework.

Q) Will this affect my VA housing benefits?

- A) Yes, however there is assistance available for you due to a closing school.
- B) VA housing benefit will be payable until the end of the term, quarter, or semester that you attended during the program or school permanent closure; or 120 days after the school or program ends (whichever is sooner). There is no entitlement charge for VA housing benefit payments made during this time period.
- C) According to VA.gov, "For any covered closure or disapproval after December 27, 2022, you do not need to enroll in a new school prior to applying for restoration of benefits. If you have not yet enrolled in a new program and therefore do not yet know whether you will or will not get 12 or more credits transferred, you simply answer "No" to question 9A on VA Form 22-0989." Link to form <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-0989-ARE.pdf>

Q) Will I now have to pay for Licensing & Exam fees?

A) If you transfer to ISSNMT, this will be discussed with their team. You are strongly encouraged to attend the Open Hours at their campus, details above.

Q) Will my class schedule be the same?

A) This will be determined by the ISSNMT Team. You are strongly encouraged to attend the Open Hours at their campus, details above.

Q) Does ISSNMT have a public clinic?

A) Yes

Q) Will we be using the same textbooks & kit items? (Aesthetics) Will I still get my Makeup Kit, BT Equipment & Myolift 600?

A) This will be determined by the ISSNMT Team. You are strongly encouraged to attend the Open Hours at their campus, details above.

Q) Can I wear my ASM/AIA uniform at ISSNMT?

A) Yes

Q) Are uniforms & name tags required at ISSNMT?

A) Yes

Q) I use Marta, what is my route of getting to ISSNMT campus?

A) This can be addressed by the ISSNMT Team. You are strongly encouraged to attend the Open Hours at their campus, details above.

Q) Will my Financial Plan change?

A) ISSNMT's tuition and fees are less than ASM's. In some cases, your payment plan may be less. This can not fully be addressed until you speak directly to them. You are strongly encouraged to attend the Open Hours at their campus, details above.

Q) Who do I make my next tuition payment to?

A) Your current payment plan with Atlanta School of Massage is now dissolved. You are not responsible for making any more payments to the school. If you choose to transfer to ISSNMT this will be discussed with their team.

Q) If I am on Tuition Options, do I continue to pay Tuition Options?

A) Your current payment plan with Atlanta School of Massage is now dissolved. You are not responsible for making any more payments to Tuition Options

Q) What school will I receive my certificates from? ISSNMT or ASM?

A) If you transfer to ISSNMT and complete the program there, you will receive your certificates from ISSNMT

If you have additional questions please email contact@atlantaschoolofmassage.edu.
Please be patient with us as we will respond to your questions as quickly as possible.