

## **Business within the City of Goleta**

All businesses (with a few exceptions) are required to have a business license, which must be renewed annually.

### **What is a Business License?**

The carrying out of any business, trade, calling, profession or occupation requires a business license. This includes fixed businesses, transient business (carts, door-to-door sales), home-based businesses, and out of town businesses such as contractors and construction companies. Anyone doing business within City limits is required to have a business license.

Examples include: All storefronts (brick and mortar), Builders/Contractors, Consultants, Online Business. Non-profits do not need to pay for a license, but they do need to register via the General Business License.

In addition to obtaining a city business license, there are State and County filing requirements when opening a business.

[Click here for a quick reference of Business Start-Up Information.](#)

## **Determine a Business Name**

The name you choose for your business is important. Aside from making sure that the name clearly describes your business, you need to ensure that the name is not already being used. If the name you choose is anything other than your own legal name, you are required to file a fictitious business name statement. The statement is filed with the County of Santa Barbara Clerk and Recorder's Office.

Find more information on [Fictitious Business Names](#).

### **County of Santa Barbara**

County Clerk & Recorder's Office  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2250

### **Identify a Legal Structure for Your Business**

Corporations and Limited Liability Companies must register with the Secretary of State. Your choice of legal structure will affect your income taxes and personal liability. Contact your accountant or attorney for advice and assistance in determining the best legal structure for you and your business.

### **California Secretary of State**

1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 653-6814

[www.sos.ca.gov/business/business.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/business.htm)

### **Other Government Agencies**

[State Board of Equalization Sellers' Permit](#) (sale of goods)

[State Franchise Tax Board](#) (non-profit organizations)

[County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department](#) (food and drink establishments)