



CASE STUDY

How ezCater helps Rice Business graduate to better food solutions



Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business in Houston, TX has over 40 student-run organizations serving its business school population of 1,200 MBAs. In addition to their core responsibilities, many organizations provide school-sponsored catering for weekly and bi-weekly meetings.

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ezcater.com/rice

The Challenge

Before they started using ezCater, Rice Business student organizations would search for menus online, use spreadsheets to keep track of orders, and have to negotiate with different vendors, creating extra work for everyone. Adam Herman, the school's Executive Director of the Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience, felt that it was tough to track down receipts from students — the paperwork alone was very difficult.

Tax-exempt savings left on the table

Rice University requires staff, faculty and students to use its tax-exempt number when ordering food. In addition to compliance requirements, if student organizations failed to take advantage of the school's tax-exempt status when ordering food, their small budgets (made up of dues from student members) could miss out on savings.

Managing the complexity of student ordering

With so many organizations under one umbrella, students needed to research and order from local restaurants around Houston for their events.

Feeding a diverse student body

With such a large and diverse population of students from around the world, being able to accommodate individual tastes, cultural preferences, and dietary restrictions was a prerogative.



ezCater makes ordering food for events just easy. It is one of the best tools that we've started using here at Rice Business."

Taylor Anne Adams

MBA 2023 and Co-President of the Entrepreneurship Association and President of the Women in Leadership Conference at Rice Business in 2023



The Solution

The Rice Business Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience chose ezCater as a way to consolidate and simplify ordering food. From lunch-and-learns and networking parties to cultural and affinity group events, ezCater’s all-in-one online platform has brought variety, convenience, flexibility, and reliability to Rice Business students — all while helping foster a sense of community through food.

The Results

Getting food ordering and spend under control

ezCater’s online platform makes billing and reporting easy. Using a single Rice Business credit card, the school can choose which student organization to bill and submit expense reports, replacing a complicated spreadsheet system.

Satisfying the appetites of a diverse and inclusive campus

Students submit their organization’s orders with the ability to customize food options for individual preferences and dietary restrictions within their diverse student body.

Putting their tax-exempt status to work

Through our system, Rice University’s tax-exempt status is automatically applied, so busy students never have to worry about being charged tax on catering orders or wasting time chasing down vendors to remove tax from the bills and receipts.

40

student-run organizations

1200

MBA students

“

Knowing that we can have the tax-exempt status within our accounting system already makes this such a streamlined process. We’re able to save the back-and-forth dialogue between different vendors.”

600+

diverse, local restaurants to choose from, at their fingertips

1

centralized solution for ordering, expenses, and tax-exempt status

Adam Herman

Executive Director, Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience, Rice Business