Proposed SARA Manual Changes for the October 2020 Board Meeting

September 1, 2020
NC-SARA Webinar:

Proposed *SARA Manual* Changes for the October 2020 Board Meeting

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Please Note:
The webcast will begin at the top of the hour.
There is no audio being broadcast at this time.
Welcome!

Please use the **Question and Answer** box for questions.

The **Closed Caption** option is available.

The webinar will be recorded.

This PowerPoint and other resources referenced will be emailed next week to all who registered and made available on our website.
Presenters

Lori Williams, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
NC-SARA

Christina Sedney
Director of Policy Initiatives and State Authorization
WICHE

Marianne Boeke, Ph.D.
Director for Policy Research and State Support
NC-SARA
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Policy Revision Cycle
• Proposed SARA Policy Changes
  • Modifications to the *SARA Manual* (1)
  • Modifications to Clarify Processes (5)
• Questions and Discussion
Introduction of New NC-SARA Staff

Melanie Booth, Ed.D.
Director
Educational Programming and Communications

Rachel Christeson, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Research and Data Analysis
NC-SARA Policy Revision Cycle

Draft Graphic

Dec: Deadline for items considered for Spring Meeting; Input from institutions to NC-SARA -> SPEs to Compacts -> Compacts to NC-SARA; NC-SARA Staff compiles first draft

Jan: Legal Review & NC-SARA Edits

Feb: Compacts Review & NC-SARA Edits
   NC-SARA hosts webinar on proposed changes

Mar: States and Institutions review, feedback from institutions to NC-SARA -> SPEs to Compacts -> Compacts to NC-SARA & NC-SARA Edits

Apr: NC-SARA Board Review

May: NC-SARA Board Meeting / Input regarding SARA Policy from institutions to NC-SARA -> SPEs to Compacts -> Compacts to NC-SARA

Jun: Deadline for items considered for Fall Meeting; Input from institutions to NC-SARA -> SPEs to Compacts -> Compacts to NC-SARA
   NC-SARA Staff compiles first draft

Aug: Compacts Review & NC-SARA Edits
   NC-SARA hosts webinar on proposed changes

Sep: States and institutions review, feedback from institutions to NC-SARA -> SPEs to Compacts -> Compacts to NC-SARA & NC-SARA Edits

Oct: NC-SARA Board Review
Proposed SARA Policy Changes

• Modifications to the *SARA Manual* (1)
• Modifications to Clarify Processes (5)

Here we go!
(ACTION) Approve Section 3.2 change to add one additional reason that a state might put an institution on provisional status.

ADD:
Section 3.2 Provisional admission or renewal of an Institution
a. A State, at its discretion, may approve an Institution applying for initial or renewal participation in SARA to participate on Provisional Status in any of the following circumstances:

9. The State determines that the Institution has failed to comply with the requirements specified in the Application and Approval Form for Institutional Participation in SARA.
Policy Clarification Modifications (1 of 5)

(ACTION) Approve Section 1 modification to add a phrase regarding non-credit bearing courses to the definition of “Operate.”

“Operate” means: activities conducted by an Institution in support of offering Distance Education degree or non-degree courses or programs, and non-credit bearing courses in a State, including but not limited to instruction, marketing, recruiting, tutoring, Supervised Field Experiences, experiential learning placements, Out-of-State Learning Placements and other student support services.
Policy Clarification Modifications (2 of 5)

(ACTION) Approve Section 2.6(c) modification to replace the word “it” with “the Compact” for clarity of reference.

By July 1, 2020, each Regional Compact shall develop and implement a means to hear and themselves resolve appeals from States for which it the Compact denies membership or renewal of membership in SARA. During any such appeal the State’s status as a SARA Member (or non-Member) State remains unchanged.
Policy Clarification Modifications (3 of 5)

(ACTION) Approve Section 3(b) modification to language to align with application requirements for all institutions when programs are no longer offered.

ADD
Section 3(b)(6)
The institution agrees that, in cases where the institution cannot fully deliver the instruction for which a student has contracted, it will provide a reasonable alternative for delivering the instruction or reasonable financial compensation for the education the student did not receive.
Policy Clarification Modifications (4 of 5)

(ACTION) Approve Section 4.4(g) modification to delete the word “issues” in the context of the section regarding mandatory arbitration.

Mandatory arbitration agreements do not pertain to SARA policy issues. Disputes between students and institutions on SARA-related matters are to be resolved by the Institution’s State Portal Entity or through other means. A student may, however, bring to the Institution Home State Portal Entity any issue that potentially involves a violation of SARA policies. Institutions that choose to operate under SARA accept a student’s right to bring complaints about violation of SARA policies through the SARA process.
Policy Clarification Modifications (5 of 5)

(ACTION) Approve Section 8.2(a) modification to add a phrase to specifically indicate that input on policy is expected from institutions and other key stakeholders and brought to the attention of NC-SARA.

Section 8.2(a)
a. Process: Questions, comments, or suggested modifications to SARA policies, from Institutions and other key stakeholders, may be brought to the attention of:
   • SARA Portal Entity directors in SARA states;
   • SARA directors in the Regional Compacts;
   • Regional SARA steering committees; or
   • The President of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) or appointed staff.
Questions and Discussion
For Questions: Info@nc-sara.org
NC-SARA Website: www.nc-sara.org