Why SARA?

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AGENDA

- Overview of SARA
- Today’s SARA
- How SARA Works
- The Value of SARA
Let's Do a Poll!
Overview of SARA
State Oversight

- States have authority to regulate institutions offering education within the state's boundaries.
- States have control over which institutions of higher education can offer academic degrees in their state.
- The approval process is part of consumer protection for learners in the state.
SARA Provides Reciprocity

SARA provides a framework for state-level reciprocity, including a governance structure and implementation by the four regional education compacts (MHEC, NEBHE, SREB, WICHE), with NC-SARA, the National Council, providing national leadership and coordination.
✓ Makes it easier for students to access distance education programs across state lines.

✓ Reduces costs and bureaucracy for states and institutions.

✓ Improves coordination between states on higher education opportunities.

✓ Provides valuable oversight of distance education programs – student consumer protections.

✓ Shares out-of-state enrollment and learning data like clinical hours and practice teaching.

✓ Provides a layer of consumer protections for students.
The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, in collaboration with the four regional higher education compacts, was established to develop and implement an effective and efficient reciprocal state-level authorization process for postsecondary distance education.

Mission:
• To provide broad access to postsecondary education opportunities to students across the country,
• To increase the quality and value of higher learning credentials earned via distance education, and
• To assure students are well served in a rapidly changing education landscape.
Today’s SARA
THE SARA LANDSCAPE

52 MEMBER STATES AND TERRITORIES
2,200+ Institutions

BREAKDOWN OF DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

PRIVATE NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

Breakdown of Total Distance Education Enrollment by Sector
How SARA Works
SARA Roles & Responsibilities
SARA Institution Eligibility Requirements

- Be degree-granting
- Be physically located in a SARA member state
- Hold proper authorization
- Hold accreditation
- Non-public institutions must meet financial responsibility requirements
- Provide reasonable alternatives for delivering the instruction or reasonable financial compensation if the institution cannot fully deliver the instruction for which a student has contracted

Additional requirements are detailed in the SARA Policy Manual, available on NC-SARA’s website.
SARA: What’s Covered in the Scope?

Institutions may more easily engage in:

• Distance Education
• Advertising
• Recruiting
• Field Trips
• Supervised Field Experiences
• And More...
SARA Application & Renewal Process

**STEP 1**
Institution **APPLIES** to SARA State Portal Entity to participate or renew participation in SARA

**STEP 2**
SARA State Portal Entity **REVIEWS** and approves or denies application or renewal

**STEP 3**
If approved, the institution receives invoice and **PAYMENT LINK** from NC-SARA via the NC-SARA portal

**STEP 4**
Institution sends **PAYMENT** to NC-SARA

**STEP 5**
NC-SARA confirms payment, sends **CONFIRMATION** information, and lists institution on NC-SARA website

**STEP 6**
Institution must **RENEW** annually to SARA State Portal Entity to maintain participation status
The Value of SARA
SARA Benefits Institutions

• Enables a broader market.
• Reduces number of applications to other states.
• Reduces number of other-state regulations to monitor for changes.
• Reduces costs.
  • See our recent Cost Savings study and SARA Cost Savings calculator: https://nc-sara.org/sara-cost-savings

“SARA has been a game changer. People need to appreciate it; it reduced the bureaucracy, fees, and staff time.”
Students Benefit from SARA

- Expands access to educational offerings.
- Provides for better resolution of complaints from students in SARA states.
- Ensures more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs.
- Reduces institutional cost that is in one way or another passed along to students.
## BEFORE & AFTER NC-SARA

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SARA: Student Consumer Protections

Protecting Students and Demanding Quality

https://nc-sara.org/student-consumer-protections-page

Other Helpful Resources

SARA Student Complaint Resources - https://nc-sara.org/student-complaints

Professional Licensure - https://nc-sara.org/resources/professional-licensure

NC-SARA Institution Directory - https://nc-sara.org/directory
Q & A

what
where
who
how
when
why
Thank You!

For questions please email: Info@nc-sara.org

NC-SARA Website: www.nc-sara.org

Twitter: @NCSARA_News