



SARA Quick Start Guide

Students Located on Military Bases

Does the scope of SARA include distance education activities offered by a SARA-participating institution that take place on a military base?

What does the *SARA Policy Manual* Say?

See the [SARA Policy Manual](#) Section 5.6 Offerings on military bases:

- a. All distance education course offerings provided interstate by a SARA participant institution to active and reserve military personnel, their dependents, and civilian employees of the installation located on a U.S. military facility or vessel in a SARA member state are covered by SARA. If such offerings are open to the general public for enrollment, SARA does not apply and state law where the facility or vessel is located applies.

See also Section 5.10 Physical Presence.

This policy does not apply to international military locations. See the *SARA Quick Start Guide: Students Located Overseas* for more information regarding international locations.

What is the rationale?

State authorization statutes vary on jurisdiction of military bases. SARA policy ensures equal applicability of policy for active and reserve military personnel, their dependents, and civilian employees of the installation.

What does my institution need to do?

- Verify who is enrolled in the course and their location.
- Determine if the military location is property of a state or of the federal government.
 - If the military location is on federal government property, state authorization requirements may be different from SARA and need to be verified with the state higher education agency and/or SPE. State higher education agency contact information is available in the [State Authorization Guide](#).
 - If the military location is state property of a SARA-member state, SARA policy applies.
- Confirm the course is not open to the general public.
- It is recommended that institutions have a system for regularly tracking student locations.

About SARA Quick Starts: When institutions participate in SARA, they agree to a set of compliance requirements as detailed in the [SARA Policy Manual](#). SARA Quick Starts are intended to help institution personnel understand a particular requirement to help them maintain compliance, communicate with colleagues regarding SARA requirements, and explain the requirement to students and other stakeholders. Institutions should always check for any state-specific requirements with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#).

Still Have Questions?

1. SARA State Portal Entities have the responsibility and authority to hold institutions in compliance with SARA policy. This information is intended to be general guidance for institutions; institutions should be in regular contact with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#) for specific requirements, directions, and guidance.
2. Feel free to email NC-SARA: info@nc-sara.org

Resources:

- [SARA Policy Manual](#), Section 5.6 and 5.10
- SARA Quick Start: Students Located Overseas

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