

THE BENEFITS OF SARA

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCIITY AGREEMENTS



The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) is a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. The initiative is being implemented by the four regional higher education interstate compacts: the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and overseen by NC-SARA. States and institutions that choose to participate agree to operate under common standards and procedures, providing a more uniform and less costly regulatory environment for institutions, more focused oversight responsibilities for states and better resolution of student complaints.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Expands access to educational offerings
- Should lead to better resolution of complaints from students in SARA states
- Reduces a rapidly growing institutional cost that is passed along to students
- Should enhance overall quality of distance education

BENEFITS TO INSTITUTIONS

- Enables more efficient provision of distance education to a broader market
- Reduces number of applications to other states
- Reduces number of other-state regulations to monitor for changes
- Reduces costs
- Reduced costs = potentially lower fees for students

BENEFITS TO STATES

- Expands educational offerings to residents
- Allows SARA states to focus on their home-state institutions
- Maintains state regulation of on-the-ground instruction offered by out-of-state institutions
- Other SARA states will help resolve complaints
- Reduces costs for institutions
- No fees charged to states to participate in SARA



**National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements**

*A voluntary, regional approach
to state oversight of distance education*