



**National Council for  
State Authorization  
Reciprocity Agreements**

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE

Institution Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution State \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Application \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal Application \_\_\_\_\_

## Application and Approval Form for Institution Participation in SARA<sup>1</sup>

An institution applying to operate under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) must submit **this form to its Home State's [SARA Portal Entity](#)**.

The chief executive officer (CEO) or chief academic officer (CAO) of the institution affirms each section, completes and submits the application including any State fees and commits to any special requirements of the SARA State Portal Entity permitted by SARA.

When the State Portal Entity enters “yes” on this form, the State affirms that the applicant institution has followed proper procedures and provided necessary documents to operate under SARA.

To review the application process, visit the [Application and Process](#) page on the NC-SARA website.

An institution seeking approval to operate under the policies of SARA must meet the following requirements:

|    | Requirements for Institution Participation in SARA   | INSTITUTION<br>CEO or CAO<br>Initial each<br>line | SARA State<br>Portal Entity<br>confirms the<br>institution<br>meets the<br>requirement |
|----|--|---|--|
|    | <b>Core Requirements</b>   |   |  |
| 1. | In a SARA member state, the main campus or central administrative unit is domiciled in a state, territory or district that has joined the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) initiative and is authorized to operate in that state <sup>2</sup> . Only distance education content originating in the United States, a U.S. territory, or district and provided from within a SARA state is eligible to be offered under SARA. <sup>3</sup> (Attach documentation.) |   | Yes or No  |
|    | <b>Consumer Protection</b>   |   |  |
| 2. | Accreditation<br>The institution is a U.S. degree-granting institution that is accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. <a href="#">Secretary of Education</a> and whose scope of authority, as specified by the Department, includes distance education. (Attach documentation of accreditation verification).<br>Name of Accrediting Agency:<br>_____  |   | Yes or No  |

<sup>1</sup> “NC-SARA” refers to the organization, whereas “SARA” refers to the agreement.

<sup>2</sup> SARA considers the Home Campus to be where an institution has its legal domicile. Any disputes about which state is the homes state will be resolved for SARA purposes by the affected regional compacts or the National Council (NC-SARA), as needed.

<sup>3</sup> The fact that a foreign institution is owned by a U.S. entity does not qualify distance education originating from the non-U.S. institution to be offered under SARA. Only distance education under the oversight of the U.S. state, territory or district can be offered through SARA.

|    | Requirements for Institution Participation in SARA  | INSTITUTION<br>CEO or CAO<br>Initial each<br>line | SARA State<br>Portal Entity<br>confirms the<br>institution<br>meets the<br>requirement |
|----|---|---|--|
| 3. | Accreditation status<br>The institution agrees to notify its home state’s SARA Portal Entity of any negative changes to its accreditation status.   |   | Yes or No  |
| 4. | Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Score<br>For non-public institutions, the institution’s most recent financial responsibility composite score from the U.S. Department of Education is 1.5 or above, or, if the score is between 1.0 and 1.49, the State Portal Entity can affirm that documentation has been provided to demonstrate financial stability sufficient to justify institutional participation in SARA. If an institution is owned by a “corporate parent,” the federal financial responsibility composite score of its “parent” must meet these requirements. Note: Public institutions leave this blank.<br>FFRCS _____<br>Year Reporting (most recent published) _____  |   | Yes or No  |
| 5. | Abide by C-RAC Guidelines<br>The institution agrees to abide by the <a href="#">Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education</a> and provisions of the <i>SARA Policy Manual</i> .   |   | Yes or No  |
| 6. | Responsible for institution activities<br>The institution agrees to be responsible for the actions of any third-party providers used by the institution to engage in operations under SARA.   |   | Yes or No  |
| 7. | Will resolve complaints<br>The institution agrees to work with its Home State’s SARA Portal Entity to resolve any complaints arising in SARA states, and to abide by the decisions of that entity regarding resolution of such complaints. <sup>4</sup>   |   | Yes or No  |
| 8. | Application signed by CEO or CAO<br>The institution agrees to apply to its Home State’s Portal Entity. The application will be submitted with the signature of the institution’s chief executive officer or chief academic officer.   |   | Yes or No  |
| 9. | Agree to professional licensure disclosures<br>The institution agrees to provide notifications to students related to professional licensure. Any institution approved to participate in SARA that offers courses or programs designed to lead to Professional Licensure or certification or advertised as leading to Licensure must satisfy all federal requirements for disclosures regarding such Professional Licensure programs under 34 §C.F.R. 668.43. For SARA purposes, these requirements will also apply to non-Title IV institutions. For SARA purposes, institutions that are unable, <i>after all reasonable efforts</i> , to determine whether a program will meet state professional licensure requirements shall provide the student or applicant with current contact information for any applicable licensing boards, and advise the student or applicant to determine whether the program meets requirements for Licensure in the State where the student is located. |   | Yes or No  |

<sup>4</sup> Complaints must follow the institution’s customary resolution procedure before being referred to the state under SARA policy. Grade appeals and student conduct appeals are not allowed under SARA.

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|-----|--|---|--|
|     | An email dedicated solely to this purpose and sent to the student's best-known email address meets this requirement. The institution should use other additional means to notify the student, if needed.   |   |  |
| 10. | <p>Instruction</p> <p>The institution agrees that in cases where the institution cannot fully deliver the instruction for which a student has contracted, to provide a reasonable alternative for delivering the instruction or reasonable financial compensation for the education the student did not receive. This may include tuition assurance funds, surety bonds, irrevocable letter of credit, assistance with transfer, teach-out provisions or other practices deemed sufficient to protect consumers.</p>   |   | Yes or No  |
| 11  | <p>Catastrophic events</p> <p>The institution agrees that it has well-documented policies and practices for addressing catastrophic events. The institution agrees to provide the catastrophic event policy and disaster recovery procedures to the State Portal Entity, if/when requested. Impacted students will receive the services for which they have paid or reasonable financial compensation for those not received. This may include tuition assurance funds, surety bonds, irrevocable letter of credit, assistance with transfer, teach-out provisions or other practices deemed sufficient to protect consumers. The institution agrees that it and/or its home state has adequate measures to protect student records in the event of closure.</p> |   | Yes or No  |
| 12. | <p>Agree to Provisional status</p> <p>The institution agrees to abide by conditions of provisional approval, if necessary.</p>   |   | Yes or No  |
|     | <b>Fees</b>  |   |  |
| 13. | <p>Agree to pay State fees</p> <p>The institution agrees to pay to its Home State any State fees for SARA participation required by the Home State for administering SARA.</p>   |   | Yes or No  |
| 14. | <p>Agree to pay SARA fees</p> <p>The institution agrees to pay its annual SARA participation fee to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).</p>   |   | Yes or No  |
|     | <b>Data</b>  |   |  |
| 15. | <p>Agrees to share data</p> <p>The institution agrees to provide data necessary to monitor SARA activities, including annual reporting of distance education enrollments and out-of-state learning placements by state, in accordance with the <a href="#">NC-SARA Data Sharing Agreement</a> and relevant reporting handbooks.</p>  |   | Yes or No  |

## Section 2 - Institutional Designation and Action and Information

I, the undersigned representative of (institution name) \_\_\_\_\_  
having the authority to commit the institution to operate under the SARA interstate agreement, hereby certify that  
this institution meets all of the policies stated herein required for operation by the *SARA Policy Manual*.

Mailing address of the institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution OPEID number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Institution

Public institution \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Independent not-for-profit institution \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Independent for-profit institution \_\_\_\_\_

Is the institution owned by another entity? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, list official name of parent company: \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, official address of parent company: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the institution participate in Title IV? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Institution link to SARA student complaint process: \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional additional link for website if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution link to Professional Licensure disclosures: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of [institution's accrediting body](#): \_\_\_\_\_

### IPEDS Related Information

Institution IPEDS identification number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution FTE (latest IPEDS): \_\_\_\_\_ Year reporting \_\_\_\_\_  
Check one of the boxes below:  
Institution with fewer than 2,500 FTE students: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution with between 2,500 and 9,999 FTE students: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution with 10,000 or more FTE students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Institution Contact Information

Primary Contact  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional campus information:

List all campuses with distance education activity covered by SARA policies. Use additional paper if necessary.

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Typed name of institutional signatory officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of signatory institutional officer: \_\_\_\_\_

*The chief executive officer (CEO) or chief academic officer (CAO) of the institution completes and submits the application.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 3 - SARA State Supplemental Sheet for Institutions

SARA provides a degree of flexibility for States as they implement policy. Information about State-specific provisions may be added on this page for items such as [fees](#) (if any) to be charged to in-state institutions, criteria for consideration of appeals of institutions having financial responsibility composite scores between 1.0 and 1.49, etc. **Institutions are reminded to check with their SARA State Portal Entity for additional Home State requirements and State Fees.**

State fee (if any):

State bonding requirement of institution (if any):

Financial responsibility criteria for federal financial composite score ratings 1.0-1.49:

## Section 4 - SARA State Portal Entity Action and Information

Institution application

- Approved
- Provisionally Approved
- Returned for Additional Data or Information
- Denied

Conditions related to Provisional Approval:

Include submission of SARA Institution Provisional Participation Form

Typed name of SARA State Portal Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Typed name of Primary SARA State Portal Entity contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title of SARA State Portal Entity contact: \_\_\_\_\_

SARA State Portal Entity email: \_\_\_\_\_

SARA State Portal Entity phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Typed name of Secondary SARA State Portal Entity contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Secondary SARA State Portal Entity contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary SARA State Portal Entity email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary SARA State Portal Entity phone: \_\_\_\_\_