



Bridgett's Corner

Welcome to the inaugural edition of a newsletter covering state authorization updates and topics. It is intended to be a useful resource for reference and for helping educate others on state authorization matters.

Also, if you would like to reach me and know when you can expect a response, my schedule is the following:

- Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am-3:30pm
- Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm

Due the nature of my flexible schedule, email is the best way to reach me.

Best,
Bridgett

Upcoming

Roadshows

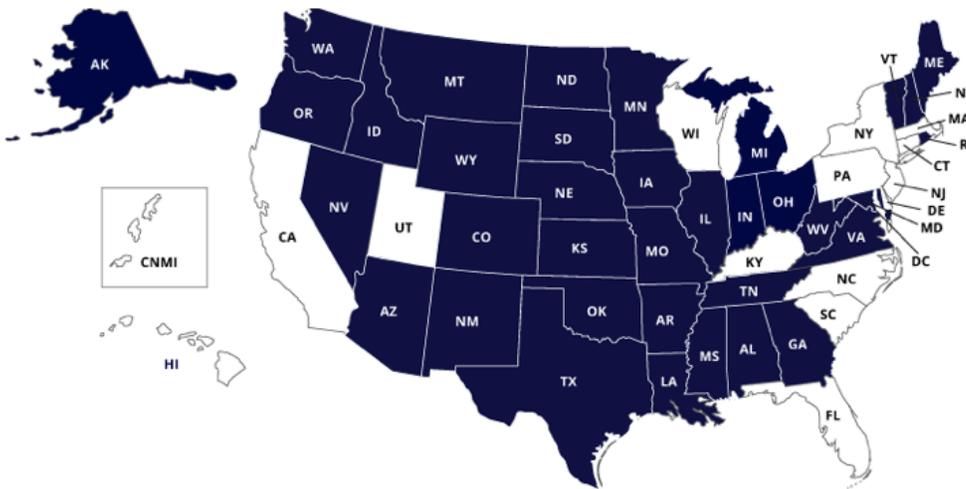
To help me coordinate a state authorization roadshow at your institution, I will need the Advisory committee members' help setting roadshow dates, identifying stakeholders to attend, identifying preliminary topics, and developing content.

SARA Renewals

All three institutions are due for their SARA membership renewals. On November 28, 2015, each institution received an email from NC-SARA containing a link to a renewal application. Institutions must be up-to-date with disclosure requirements, including professional licensure disclosures, and student complaint procedure requirements. Once completed, the applications will be sent to the portal agency. System is submitting the application and payment.

SARA Updates

SARA States & Institutions



In November and December, seven states joined SARA, which are listed below. This brings the total to 36 SARA states.

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- Rhode Island
- Texas

The remaining states and Puerto Rico are anticipated to join SARA by 2017. Per the NC SARA Meeting Summary, the state membership update by region is as follows:

- WICHE - The Hawaii application is in. Utah is working on legislation. California is trying to introduce legislation.
- NEBHE - New Jersey will probably join before June. New York passed legislation. Connecticut is introducing legislation and hopes to join by next Fall. Massachusetts needs legislation and would join in 2017 at the earliest.
- SREB - Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina will join in 2016. Florida and Kentucky may join by the end of 2016 or the start of 2017. DC and Pennsylvania will join SREB for SARA purposes in 2016. They are hoping that Puerto Rico joins in 2017.
- MHEC - For Wisconsin, legislation will be introduced in 2016 and they hope to join sometime next year.

Quarterly Report

SAN Coordinator Meetings

October

Delaware (non-SARA state): Delaware no longer exempts institutions for 100% online programs or courses. The fee for authorization is \$250.

November

The November SAN Coordinator Meeting was held in conjunction with the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) Conference. Six breakout sessions were held concurrently with a discussion on one of the following:

- (1) Professional licensure
- (2) International compliance
- (3) SARA return on investment for public institutions
- (4) What does SARA cover and not cover
- (5) How to monitor and centralize data on where students are, and
- (6) How to get buy in at institutions for better understanding on state authorization compliance.

Below is a report on two of the sessions:

Professional licensure: Institutions must disclose to students in which states its programs lead and do not lead to licensure. More than one threshold for disclosure exists requiring institutions to follow applicable federal, state, and SARA disclosure requirements. Additionally, this discussion emphasized data coordination, which included knowing what

are the and how many state licensure boards exist for a given profession in that particular state, boards' educational and individual requirements, and navigating agency overlap between a state's board of higher education and the state's professional licensure board(s).

Monitoring and centralizing data for student location:

Institutions focused on sources of data and data management. They discussed practices on flagging students enrolling from states where the institution was neither exempted nor authorized to enroll students, and their internal student-monitoring practices to track online students' locations.

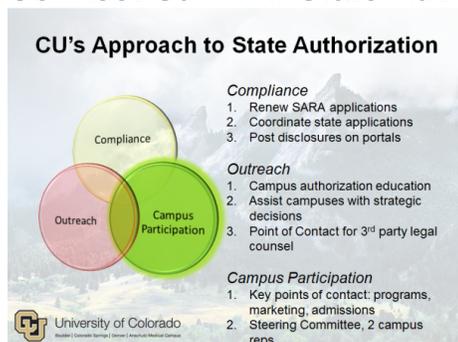
December

SARA states can request very limited information from SARA institutions, such as programs and student enrollment. Three trigger maps (100% Distance Education, Advertising, and Employment) were disseminated (attached below). They are works in progress.

Tip

A program leading to professional licensure must disclose to a prospective student whether it qualifies the student to sit for an exam in the state in which the student resides or intends to reside. This is a federal requirement. SARA also requires that institutions inform students by email.

Connect Summit: State Authorization Presentation



In November, Jaimie Henthorn and I presented on state authorization as it pertains to online education at the University of Colorado Connect Summit to all campus chancellors, provosts, CFOs, CIOs, and marketing leadership. Our brief presentation explained the differences between SARA and non-SARA states, when state authorization becomes an issue requiring action, the distinction between state authorization and state professional licensure board approval, potential consequences for noncompliance, and our approach to state authorization.

Educational Resources

- State Authorization and Supervised Field Experiences: Easier Than You Think, WCET Blog, <https://wcetblog.wordpress.com/2015/12/15/state-auth-field-experiences/>
- Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact Promotes Interstate Distance Ed and Telehealth, WCET Blog, <https://wcetblog.wordpress.com/2015/11/11/enhanced-nurse-licensure-compact/>
- State Authorization Excel Spreadsheet (attached file) (work in progress): Covers a state's SARA status, exemption availability and fee, authorization application and fee, internships as a physical presence trigger, and controlling regulations and body
- State Authorization FAQ (attached file)
- Notes from SARA Board and SPA meeting ("NC SARA Meeting Summary") (attached file)
- Trigger Maps (attached files): 100% Distance Education, Advertising, and Employment