Presenter

Mary Agnes Larson
Associate Director
for Student and Institution Support
NC-SARA
mlarson@nc-sara.org
I’m not sure I understand SARA
Goals

SARA establishes a state-level reciprocity process that supports the nation in efforts to increase the educational attainment of its people by making state authorization:

• more efficient, effective, and uniform in regard to necessary and reasonable standards of practice that could span states;

• more effective in dealing with quality and integrity issues that have arisen in some online/distance education offerings; and

• less costly for states and institutions and, thereby, the students they serve.
SARA: A negotiated compromise

• Institutions’ goals
• Regulators’ concerns
• Others
  – Accreditors
  – Regional compacts
  – National commission
The SARA Solution

A nation-wide system of reciprocity administered by the four existing regional compacts.
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 helps resolve complaints.
• Reduces costs for institutions.
• No fees charged to states to participate in SARA.
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 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 in one way or another passed along to students
• Should enhance overall quality of distance education
SARA Member States

The District of Columbia and U.S. Virgin Islands are also SARA members.
The Current SARA Landscape
SARA Participating Institutions

Number of SARA Institutions

Jan. 2014: 0
Jul. 2014: 26
Jan. 2016: 139
Jul. 2015: 358
Jan. 2016: 616
Jul. 2016: 963
Jan. 2017: 1283
Jul. 2017: 1566
Jan. 2018: 1738
Apr. 2019: 1788
Institutions by Size

Institutions by SIZE

- Fewer than 2,500 FTE
- 2,500 - 9,999 FTE
- Greater than 10,000 FTE
Institutions by Sector

- Public: 53%
- Private/Non-Profit: 41%
- Independent/For-Profit: 6%
- Tribal: 0%
What SARA Doesn’t Cover….

- Professional licensure board requirements.
- Secretary of State registration.
- Agent for Service of Process applications.
- Workers Compensation Insurance.
- Physical locations to offer instruction.
- Providing office space for faculty or staff.
- …..

(SARA Manual Section 5: Coverage and Limitations of SARA)
Do You Know Where Your Students Are?
2017 Enrollment Report

• 1,477 institutions reported
• 1,170,725 total reported out-of-state enrollments
• Report is available on the NC-SARA web page: www.nc-sara.org
  • Documents
    • SARA Development Documents
      • 2017
The 2018 Enrollment Data Reporting period will be May 21 - June 11

• All SARA institutions are required to participate in enrollment reporting.

• The 2018 NC-SARA Enrollment Data Reporting Guide, Placement Reporting Guide and Data Sharing Agreement are available on the NC-SARA website.

• The 2018 Guides provide an expanded FAQs section.

• Webinar on Data Reporting is on the NC-SARA website.
Website: NC-SARA.org
Experiential Learning Basics for Licensed Professions

- SARA basic provisions
  - Ten students/program/site
- Check with the state’s licensing entities for programs leading to licensure
- Meet their requirements and notify the student
- The institution may determine whether the course or program meets the requirements for professional licensure in the state where the applicant or student resides and provide that information in writing to the student, or
- After making all reasonable efforts to make such a determination, if unsuccessful, the institution may notify the applicant or student in writing that the institution cannot confirm whether the course or program meets requirements for professional licensure in the student’s state, provide the student with current contact information for any applicable licensing boards, and advise the student to determine whether the program meets requirements for licensure in the state where the student lives.

(SARA Manual Section 5: Coverage and Limitations of SARA)
SARA News…continued

• Student and Institution Support
  – Additional online resources (spring 2018)
  – Redesign of website (summer 2018)
  – Former SHEEO “State Surveys”
    – Joint Project with WCET/SAN
    – (late spring 2018)
  – Revised process forms (January 2018)
• Marianne Boeke Joins NC-SARA

• Marianne Boeke will be joining us as Associate Director for Policy Research and State Support.

• Marianne is currently a Senior Associate at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) in Boulder, Colorado.

• At NCHEMS for 14 years, Marianne has worked on a variety of projects involving the use of technology in education, competency based education, state authorization, and other issues.
SARA News...continued

• July 2018 federal rules
  • Dear Colleague Letter?
  • Repeal?
  • Delay Implementation?
  • State Authorization & SARA remain

• HEA reauthorization
SARA Resources

Mary Larson  
mlarson@nc-sara.org

NC-SARA Website  
www.nc-sara.org

Enrollment reporting questions  
data@nc-sara.org

Questions for NC-SARA  
info@nc-sara.org