

State Institutional Approval Quick Chart

Institutions must comply with state requirements in states where their students are located. State institutional compliance may be obtained by individual state by state compliance or for many distance education activities, by participation in reciprocity through the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA).

Institutions that choose not to participate in reciprocity, are located or offer an activity in a state or territory that is not a member of SARA, or offer activities outside of reciprocity, must review and comply with all state requirements, if any, where their students are located while participating in an online course, field experience, or other activities.

The chart below provides a start to the institutional research for **ALL state requirements for institutions seeking state by state authorization** by offering a snapshot of contacts for the state higher education agencies and provides notes about the status of oversight of online courses in each state.

Additionally, the chart offers SARA participating institutions direction to **specific state closure laws that a state chooses to enforce** per compliance with 34 CFR 668.14(b)(32)(iii) (effective July 1, 2024). Links to requirements will be added as states determine applicability in their state **for SARA participating institutions**.

When reading state statutes and regulations, consider these tips from the American Bar Association (ABA): [Five Tips for Reading Legislation and Code](#).

SAN will review this list on a periodic basis. If you want to let us know of any issues you have using these links, please let us know [here](#).
(Last reviewed 01/06/25)

Please note the following:

- These determinations were made with conservative analysis based on basic research of agency websites and state regulation/statutes addressing accredited institutions.
- Please note the date above for timeliness of the information. We will review periodically and make changes as we become aware of the need.
- The quick chart was developed to provide swift direction for information to review state institutional approval requirements.
- The quick chart should not be considered to be or used as legal advice.

- SAN cannot verify the security of the website links offered in this resource.
- Institutions should review requirements to determine applicability to the activities of the institution.
- Find more detailed information for each state, please review [The State Authorization Guide](#).

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• State	Higher Education Approval Agency	Oversight Process/Authority	Agency Contacts	Oversight of Online Courses?	Notes:	Enforceable state specific Closure Laws as determined enforceable by states for institutions participating in reciprocity.
Alabama	Commission on Higher Ed (ACHE)	Non-Resident Institution Process	Jim Conely jim.conely@ache.edu	Yes		
	Alabama Community College System (ACCS)		Tivoli Nash, Tivoli.nash@accs.edu	Yes		
Alaska	Commission on Postsecondary Education	Online Distance Education Exemption	Higher Education Authorization: eed.acpe-ia@alaska.gov	Yes	Submit short application for an exemption. Can be approved for up to two years. \$250 fee.	

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Arizona	Board for Private Postsecondary Education	Regulations Policy of State Authorization and Student Complaint Process	Keith Blanchard, Keith.blanchard@azppse.gov	No		
Arkansas	Division of Higher Education	Process	Alana Colburn Alana.Colburn@adhe.edu	Yes		
	Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education		Dr. Ken Warden mailto:Ken.Warden@adhe.edu	Yes		

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California	Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education	For Profit Registration Process Non-profit/public 94801.5(c)	Deborah Cochrane: Deborah.Cochrane@dca.ca.gov	No*	No oversight of public or private non-profit. BUT For-profit institutions are subject to oversight	
Colorado	Department of Higher Education	Authority (3.17(b)) page 6 Code of Colorado Regulations	Heather Delange: heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us	No		
	Colorado Division of Private Occupational Schools	- unless meet an exemption, but carefully review the exemptions.		Yes		
Connecticut	Office of Higher Education	Out-of-State Online Registration	Sean Seepersad, PhD, SSeepersad@ctohe.org	Yes		

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Delaware	Department of Education	<p>Institutions Seeking Initial Approval in Delaware</p> <p>Administrative Code: 292 Post Secondary Institutions & Degree Granting Institutions of Higher Education</p>	<p>Contact info for Higher Education Authorization:</p> <p>ihe@doe.k12.de.us</p>	Yes		
District of Columbia	Higher Education Licensure Commission	Distance/Online Education Inquiries	<p>Terasita Edwards,</p> <p>terasita.edwards@dc.gov</p>	Yes		
Florida	Florida Department of Education	Authority/regulations	<p>Susan Hood,</p> <p>Susan.Hood@fldoe.org</p>	No		

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Georgia	Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission	Process Seeking Approval for Online Programming	Magda Rivers, mrivers@gnpec.ga.gov	Yes		
Guam				Unknown		
Hawaii	Post-secondary Education Authorization Program (HPEAP)	Authority/FAQ's	Jayson Horiuchi hpeap@dcca.hawaii.gov	No		
Idaho	Idaho Board of Education Private Colleges and Proprietary Schools	Authority – w/no physical presence	Tamara Baysinger, Tamara.Baysinger@osbe.idaho.gov	No		
Illinois	Board of Higher Education	Authority – w/no physical presence	Nkechi Onwuameze, PhD, sara@ibhe.org	No		

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Indiana	Department for Workforce Development	Process	OCTS@dwd.in.gov .	Yes Yes Yes		
	Board for Proprietary Education		Ross Miller, rmiller@che.in.gov			
	Commission of Higher Education		Ken Sauer, ksauer@che.in.gov			
Iowa	College Student Aid Commission	Process	Lisa Pundt, lisa.pundt@iowo.gov	Yes		

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Kansas	Board of Regents	<p>See Private/Out of State guidelines</p> <p>See also: 74-32,163. Definitions</p>	<p>Crystal Puderbaugh, cpuderbaugh@ksbor.org</p>	Yes	Review def. of physical presence for applicability	
Kentucky	Council on Postsecondary Education	Process Legislation	<p>Jevonda Keith, jevonda.keith@ky.gov</p> <p>Misty Edwards, misty.edwards@ky.gov</p>	Yes		
	Council on Proprietary Education			Yes		
		Forms & Legislation				

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Louisiana	Board of Regents	Licensure Process for Institutions Operating in Louisiana (open drop down for explanation)	Susannah Craig, Susannah.Craig@laregents.edu Melissa Anders, Melissa.Anders@laregents.edu	No	but, experiential learning requires approval	
Maine	Department of Education	Online Higher Education Approval	Michael T. Perry, michael.t.perry@maine.gov	No*	Should contact agency for more information related to authorization exemption.	
Maryland	Higher Education Commission	Out-of-State Online Registration	onlinereg.mhec@maryland.gov	Yes		
Massachusetts	Department of Higher Education (DHE)	Degree-granting authority for out-of-state institutions	approvalquery@bhe.mass.edu	?*	Must contact email provided to determine if approval is required	

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Michigan	Labor and Economic Opportunity - Post Secondary Schools	Higher Education authorization and Distance Education Reciprocal Exchange Act (2015 PA 45) Section 390.1694(3)	James R. Farhat, farhatj@michigan.gov	Yes		
Minnesota	Office of Higher Education	Process	Betsy Talbot, Betsy.Talbot@state.mn.us	Yes		
Mississippi	Commission on College Accreditation	Process	Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. , Commissioner Application request: Dr. Sheriece Robinson .	Yes		
	Office of Proprietary Schools	Authority 2.16	Kim Verneuille, kverneuille@mccb.edu	No		

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Missouri	Department of Higher Education	Process	Alicia Erickson, Alicia.Erickson@dhewd.mo.gov	Yes		
Montana	Board of Regents	Process Montana State Authorization FAQ	Hannah Tokerud, htokerud@montana.edu	Yes	Short application	
Nebraska	Department of Education Private Postsecondary Career Schools	Process	Marisol Birth, Marisol.birth@nebraska.gov	Yes		
	Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	Authority	Dr. Kathleen Fimple, kathleen.fimple@nebraska.gov	No		

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Nevada	Commission on Postsecondary Education	State Institutional Licensure Nevada Exemption for Distance Education	Kelly D. Wuest, kdwuest@detr.nv.gov	No*	Must submit exemption request – institution should check about experiential learning	
New Hampshire	Department of Education	Authority Requirements for approval of distance education/online instructional programs.	Whitney.Ca.Vaillancourt@doe.nh.gov	Yes	If you have any questions or wish to request to apply for Administrative Review address the agency contact.	
New Jersey	Office of the Secretary of Higher Education	Process	Eric Taylor, Esq., eric.taylor@oshe.nj.gov	Yes*	Registration and authorization are different processes. Registration is required.	

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New Mexico	Higher Education Department	Process	Pascal Buser, Pascal.buser@state.nm.us	Yes		
New York	Office of College and University Evaluation	Physical Presence	IHEauthorize@nysed.gov			
	Adult Career and Continuing Ed Services	Distance Ed Application Process	Online form: http://www.acces.nysed.gov/contact-us	Yes		
		Policy		Yes		

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North Carolina	University of NC System	State Authorization	Stateauthorization@northcarolina.edu	Yes No		
		Policy on Standards for Licensure	Scott Corl, corls@nccommunitycolleges.edu			
	Office of Proprietary School Service (N. Carolina Community Colleges)	Authority				
North Dakota	University System	Process & Review North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-18.1	Claire Gunwall, stateauth@ndus.edu	Yes	Short application for online only -\$250	
	Career and Technical Education Office	Authority & Exemptions listed in ND Century Code section 15-20.4.02	Michael Netzloff, mnetzloff@nd.gov	No*	Must submit document for exemption.	
Northern Mariana Islands				Unknown		

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Ohio	Department of Higher Education	Academic Program Approval	Matt Exline, mexline@highered.ohio.gov	No*	Contact agency for letter of exemption	
	Board of Career Colleges and Schools	Authorization of Distance Education Programs	John Ware, John.ware@scr.state.oh.us	No*	License required for For-Profit	

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Oklahoma	Regents for Higher Education	Link to OK policy	Daniel Archer, darcher@osrhe.edu	Yes* Yes Yes	Beginning Fall 2025, OSRHE policy now requires 1) authorization for online-only distance education from non-SARA participating, out-of-state institutions, 2) annual authorization fees for all institutions, and 3) annual payments into a student tuition recovery fund for private institutions, AND provides policy guidance for religious degree-granting institutions' exemption from Oklahoma statutory accreditation and authorization requirements. 70 O.S. § 4103 and 70 O.S. § 4103.1 Link to OK policy	
	Board of Private Schools	Process	Angela Moore, angela.moore@obpvs.ok.gov			
	Board of Career and Technology Education	Process	Brent Haken, Brent.Haken@careertech.ok.gov			

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Oregon	Office of Degree Authorization	Process	Veronica Dujon, Veronica.dujon@state.or.us	Yes		
		Process		Yes		
	Private and Career Schools		Veronica Dujon, Veronica.dujon@state.or.us			
Pennsylvania	Department of Education	Process for Registration	Gina Wetten, giwetten@pa.gov	Yes		
Puerto Rico	Consejo de Educacion de Puerto Rico	Higher Education Regulations	David Báez, dbaez@estado.pr.gov	Yes	Contact agency representatives	
	(Google translate is available / note: in the top right corner of the page, users are able to toggle from Spanish to English)		Damaris Nolasco, dnolasco@estado.pr.gov			

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Rhode Island	Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	Regulations Policy on Distance Learning	Greg Ebner, PhD greg.ebner@riopc.edu	Yes		
South Carolina	Commission on Higher Education	Information & Process	Argentini Anderson, mailto:aanderson@che.sc.gov	No		
South Dakota	Secretary of State	Authority	Krista Rounds, Krista.rounds@state.sd.us	No		
Tennessee	Higher Education Commission	Postsecondary State Authorization	Julie Woodruff, julie.woodruff@tn.gov	No		

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Texas	Higher Education Coordinating Board	Authority	Cathie Maeyaert, Cathie.Maeyaert@highered.texas.gov	No* Yes*	Need approval to offer experiential learning	
	Texas Workforce Commission	Process	Milan George, Milan.george@twc.state.tx.us		Communication req'd even if license is not.	
US Virgin Islands	Department of Education		Camille McKayle cmckayl@uvi.edu	Unknown		
Utah	Division of Consumer Protection	FAQ's & Registration Apply Online Postsecondary Schools and State Authorization FAQs	Marla Winegar, mwinegar@utah.gov	Yes	S.B.180 effective January 1, 2024. Will require biennial registration, changes to modification of the exemption, registration, and surety requirements, new outcome disclosures.	

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Vermont	Agency of Education	Authority (176a(e)(5))	Cassandra Ryan, Cassandra.Ryan@vermont.gov Emily Simmons, emily.simmons@vermont.gov	No*	Appears to be online only without oversight. Contact Agency about experiential learning	
Virginia	State Council of Higher Education	PPE Forms and Regulations for Schools and Private Postsecondary Education website	Sandra Freeman, sandrafreeman@schev.com	Yes	New process effective date 7/1/22	
Washington	Student Achievement Council	Authority	DegreeAuthorization@wsac.wa.gov	No*	Experiential learning requires state institutional approval.	
	Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board	Authority	Sam Loftin, samL@wsac.wa.gov	No*		

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West Virginia	Higher Education Policy Commission	Authority Governance (Section 3 Def. Physical Presence)	Lucy Kefauver lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu	No		
	Council for Community and Technical College Ed		Lucy Kefauver lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu	No		
Wisconsin	Education Approval Program	Approval Information and Approval Flow Chart	Rebecca Larson Rebecca.larson@waicu.org	Yes & No*	Public institutions do not require approval. For Profit and Non-Profit private institutions must seek approval.	
Wyoming	Private School Licensing	Chapter 30 Private Post-Secondary Degree Granting Institution Application	Elaine Marces Elaine.marces@wyo.gov	Yes*	Short application and low cost.	

