

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 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)	Process	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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		Regulations				
Arizona	Board for Private Postsecondary Education	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 Colorado Division of Private Occupational Schools	Authority (3.17(b)) page 6 Code of Colorado Regulations - unless meet an exemption, but carefully review the exemptions.	Heather Delange: heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us	No 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	Institutions Seeking Initial Approval in Delaware Administrative Code: 292 Post Secondary Institutions & Degree Granting Institutions of Higher Education	Contact info for Higher Education Authorization: ihe@doe.k12.de.us	Yes		
District of Columbia	Higher Education Licensure Commission	Distance/Online Education Inquiries	Terasita Edwards, terasita.edwards@dc.gov	Yes		
Florida	Florida Department of Education	Authority/regulations	Susan Hood, Susan.Hood@fldoe.org	No		

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		Process				
Georgia	Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission	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		

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Illinois	Board of Higher Education	Authority – w/no physical presence	Nkechi Onwuameze, PhD, sara@ibhe.org	No		
	Department for Workforce Development		OCTS@dwd.in.gov . Ross Miller, rmiller@che.in.gov			
Indiana		Process		Yes		
	Board for Proprietary Education Commission of Higher Education		Ken Sauer, ksauer@che.in.gov	Yes Yes		
Iowa	College Student Aid Commission	Process	Lisa Pundt, lisa.pundt@iowo.gov	Yes		

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

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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	Authority	Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca/sara_faq.asp	Yes*	Oversight for non-SARA participating institutions.	
	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	

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Nebraska	Department of Education Private Postsecondary Career Schools	Process	Marisol Birth, Marisol.birth@nebraska.gov			
	Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	Authority	Dr. Kathleen Fimple, kathleen.fimple@nebraska.gov	Yes No		
Nevada		State Institutional Licensure				
	Commission on Postsecondary Education	Nevada Exemption for Distance Education	Kelly D. Wuest, kdwuest@detr.nv.gov	No*	Must submit exemption request – institution should check about experiential learning	

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New Hampshire	Department of Education	Authority	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.	
		Requirements for approval of distance education/online instructional programs.				
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.	
New Mexico	Higher Education Department	Process	Pascal Buser, Pascal.buser@state.nm.us	Yes		

• State	Higher Education Approval Agency	Oversight Process/Authority	Agency Contacts	Oversight of Online Courses?	Notes:	Enforceable state specific Closure Laws as determined by states for institutions participating in reciprocity.
New York	Office of College and University Evaluation	Physical Presence	IHEauthorize@nysed.gov			
	Adult Career and Continuing Ed Services	Distance Ed Application Process Policy	Online form: http://www.acces.nysed.gov/contact-us	Yes Yes		

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

							Enforceable state specific Closure Laws as determined enforceable by states for institutions participating in reciprocity.
	• State	Higher Education Approval Agency	Oversight Process/Authority	Agency Contacts	Oversight of Online Courses?	Notes:	
Northern Mariana Islands					Unknown		
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 Process	Daniel Archer, darcher@osrhe.edu			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
	Board of Private Schools	Process	Angela Moore, angela.moore@obpvs.ok.gov	Yes*		
				Yes		
	Board of Career and Technology Education		Brent Haken, Brent.Haken@careertech.ok.gov	Yes		

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Oregon	Office of Degree Authorization	Process	Veronica Dujon, Veronica.dujon@state.or.us	Yes		
	Private and Career Schools	Process	Veronica Dujon, Veronica.dujon@state.or.us	Yes		
Pennsylvania	Department of Education	Process for Registration	Gina Wetten, giwetten@pa.gov	Yes		

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	Consejo de Educacion de Puerto Rico		David Báez, dbaez@estado.pr.gov			
Puerto Rico	(Google translate is available / note: in the top right corner of the page, users are able to toggle from Spanish to English)	Higher Education Regulations	Damaris Nolasco, dnolasco@estado.pr.gov	Yes	Contact agency representatives	
		Regulations	Greg Ebner, PhD			
Rhode Island	Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	Policy on Distance Learning	greg.ebner@riopc.edu	Yes		
South Carolina	Commission on Higher Education	Information & Process	Argentini Anderson, mailto:aanderson@che.sc.gov	No		

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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		
Texas	Higher Education Coordinating Board	Authority	Cathie Maeyaert, Cathie.Maeyaert@highered.texas.gov	No*	Need approval to offer experiential learning	
	Texas Workforce Commission	Process	Milan George, Milan.george@twc.state.tx.us	Yes*		Communication req'd even if license is not.

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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.	
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	

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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		Lucy Kefauver lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu			
	Council for Community and Technical College Ed	Authority Governance (Section 3 Def. Physical Presence)	Lucy Kefauver lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu	No 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.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State 	Higher Education Approval Agency	Oversight Process/Authority	Agency Contacts	Oversight of Online Courses?	Notes:	Enforceable state specific Closure Laws as determined by states for institutions participating in reciprocity.
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.	