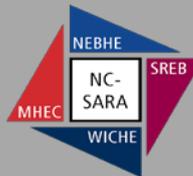




SARA Overview and Update

State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements
for Distance Education

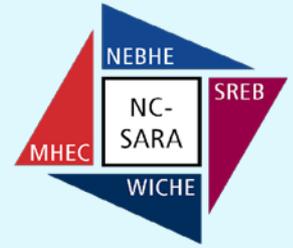
MHEC Meeting
July 17, 2018



National Council for
State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

A voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of distance education

Presenters



Marianne Boeke

Associate Director

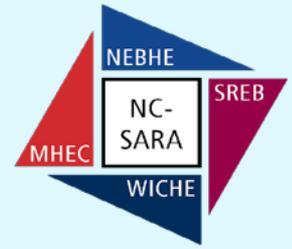
for Policy Research and State Support

Mary Agnes Larson

Associate Director

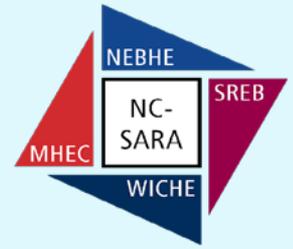
for Student and Institution Support

SARA: A Summary



The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, commonly known as SARA, provide a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. When states join SARA -- and membership is voluntary -- they agree to follow uniform processes for approving their eligible institutions' participation in SARA. They also agree to deal with other states' SARA institutions in a common way when those institutions carry out activities in SARA states other than their own. SARA's uniform standards and policies help protect students and provide benefits to both states and institutions carrying out distance education in multiple states. As of June, 2018, 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are members of SARA. About 1,800 colleges and universities participate.

SARA: A negotiated compromise

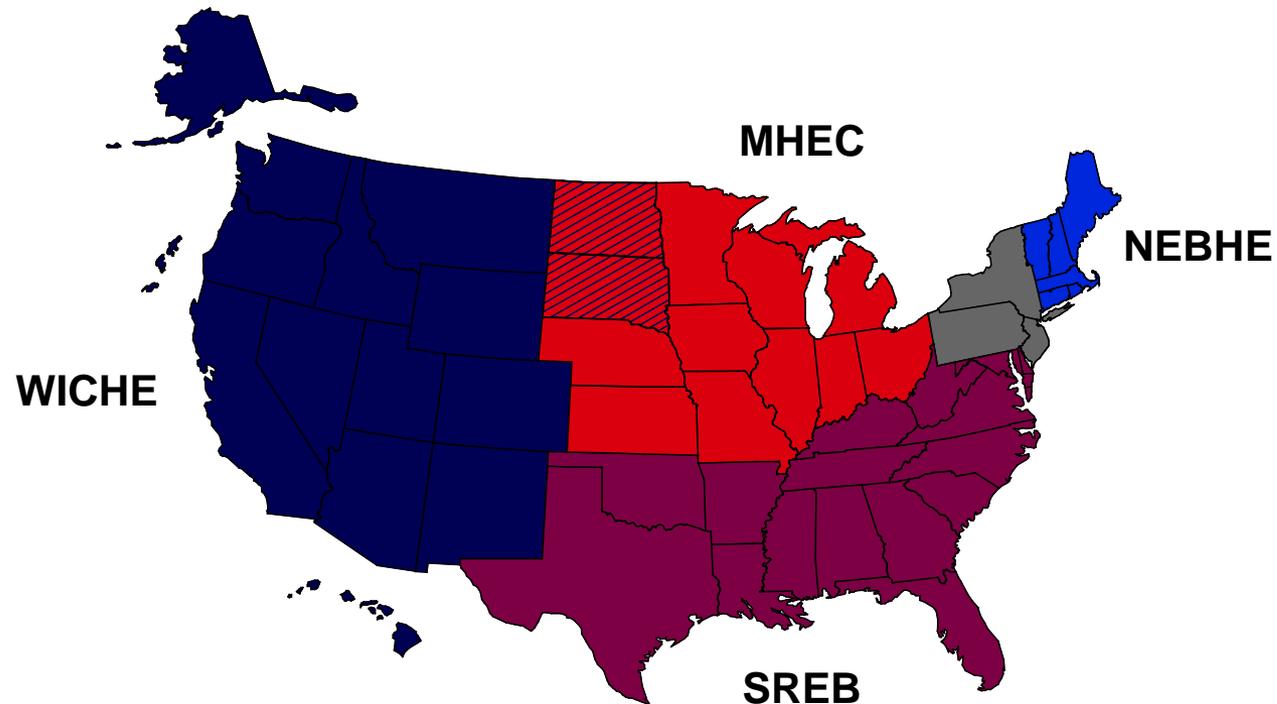


- Institutions' goals
- Regulators' concerns
- Others
 - Accreditors
 - Regional compacts
 - National commission

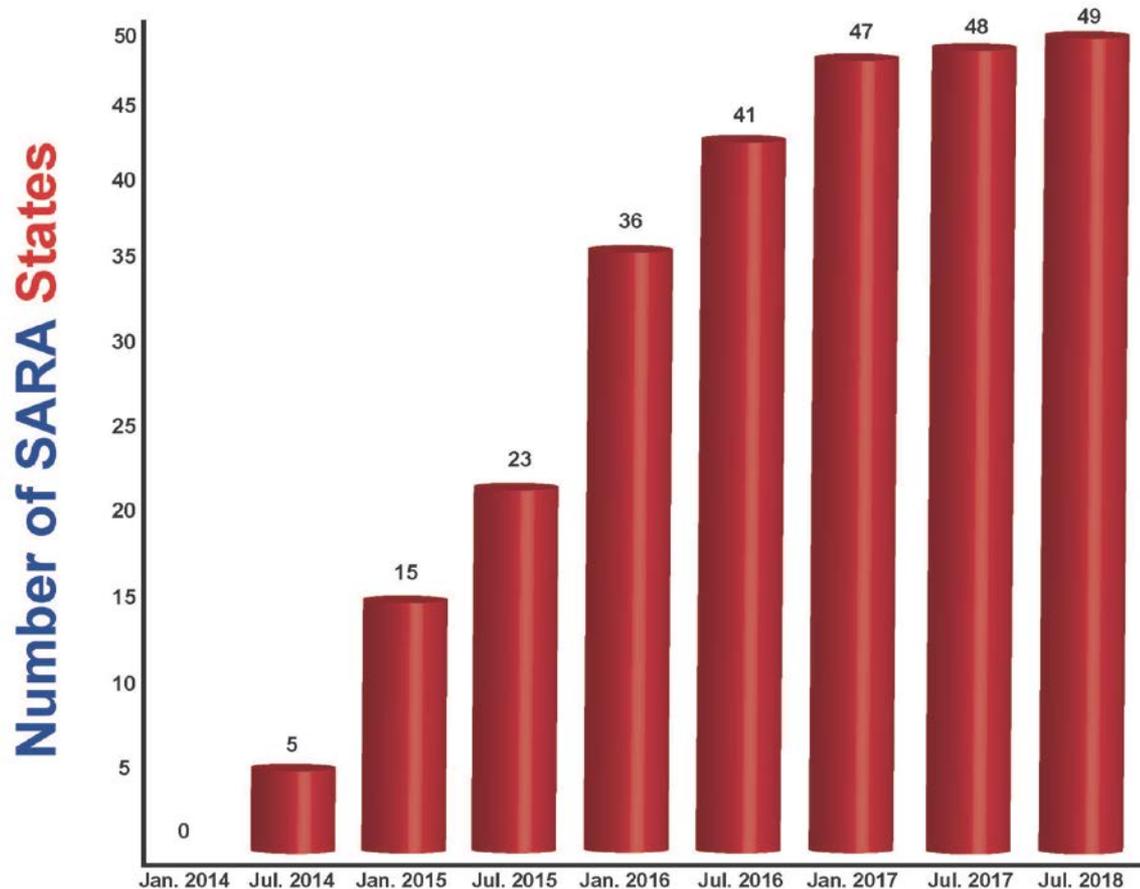
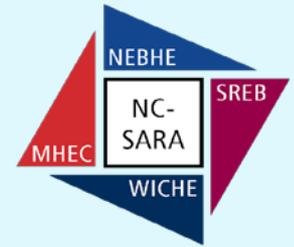
The SARA Solution



A nation-wide system of reciprocity administered by the **four existing regional compacts**.

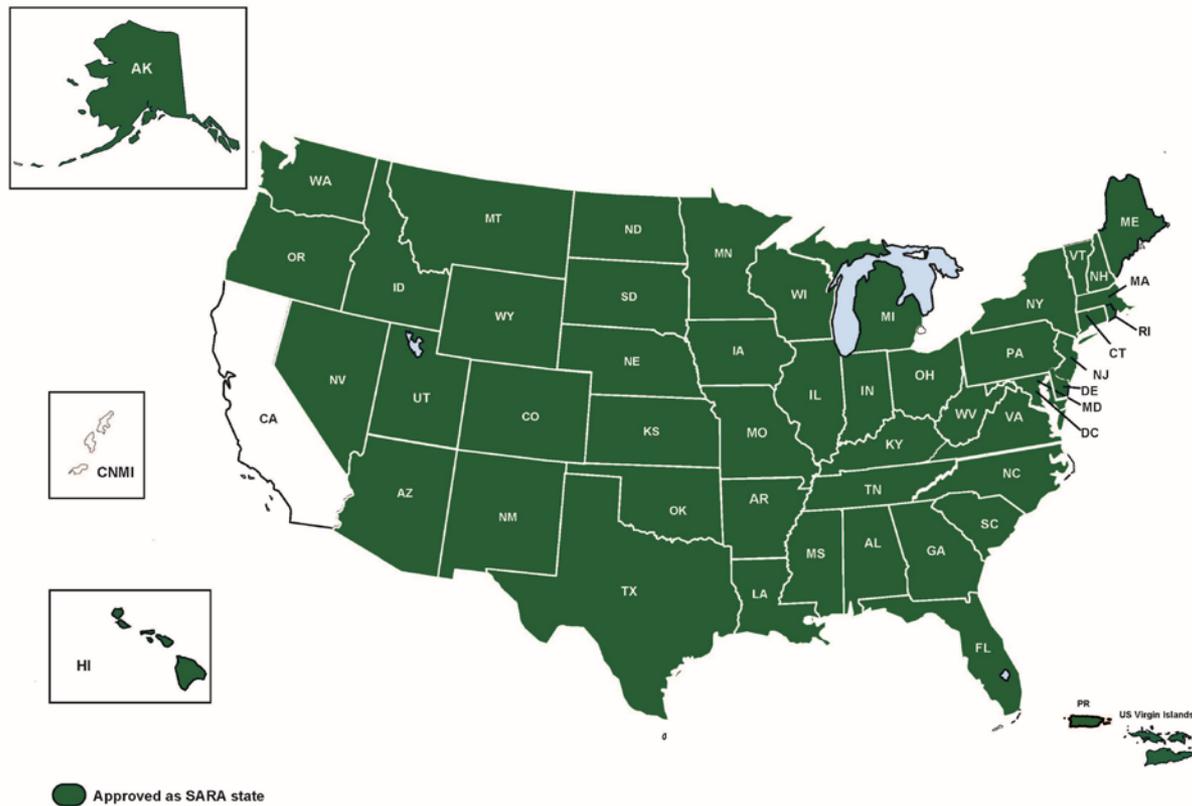


SARA Member States

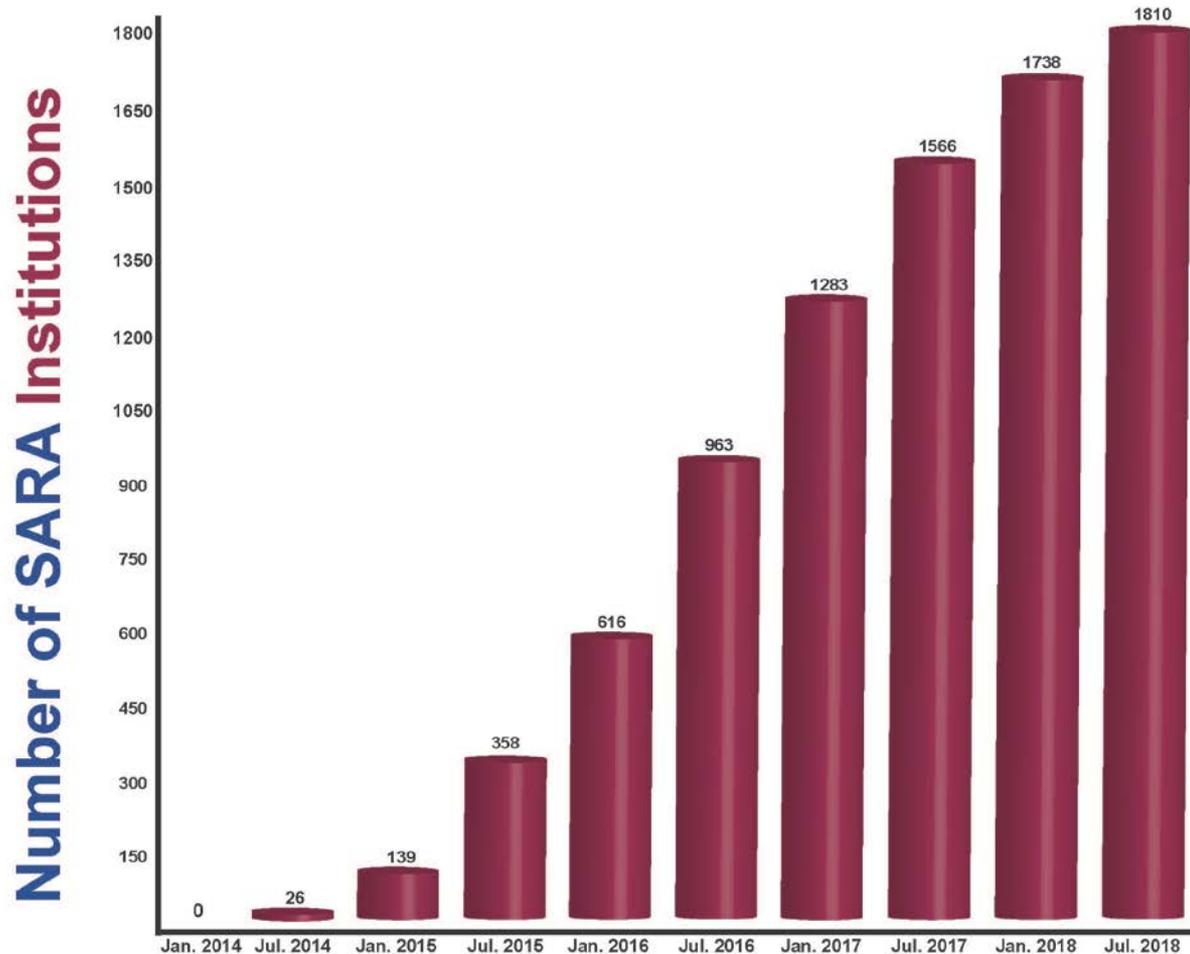
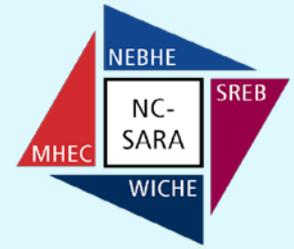


The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands are also SARA members.

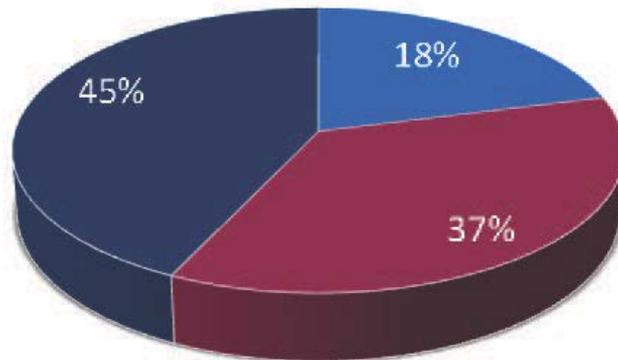
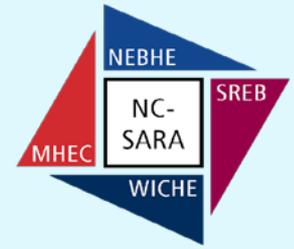
The Current SARA Landscape



SARA Participating Institutions



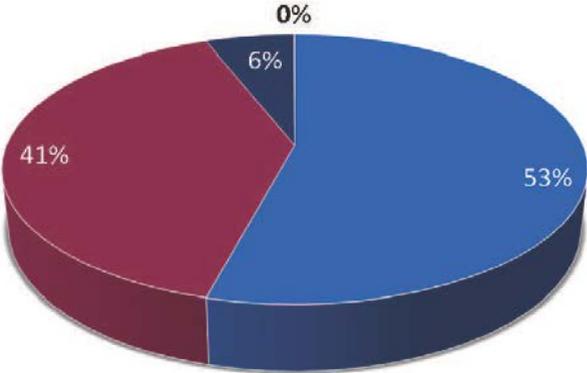
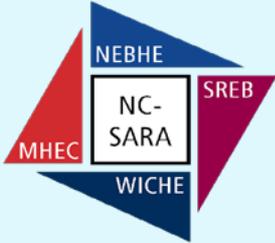
Institutions by Size



Institutions by **SIZE**

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

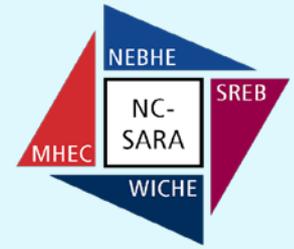
Institutions by Sector



**Institutions by
SECTOR / TYPE**

- Public
- Private/Non-Profit
- Independent/ For-Profit
- Tribal

Institution Application Process

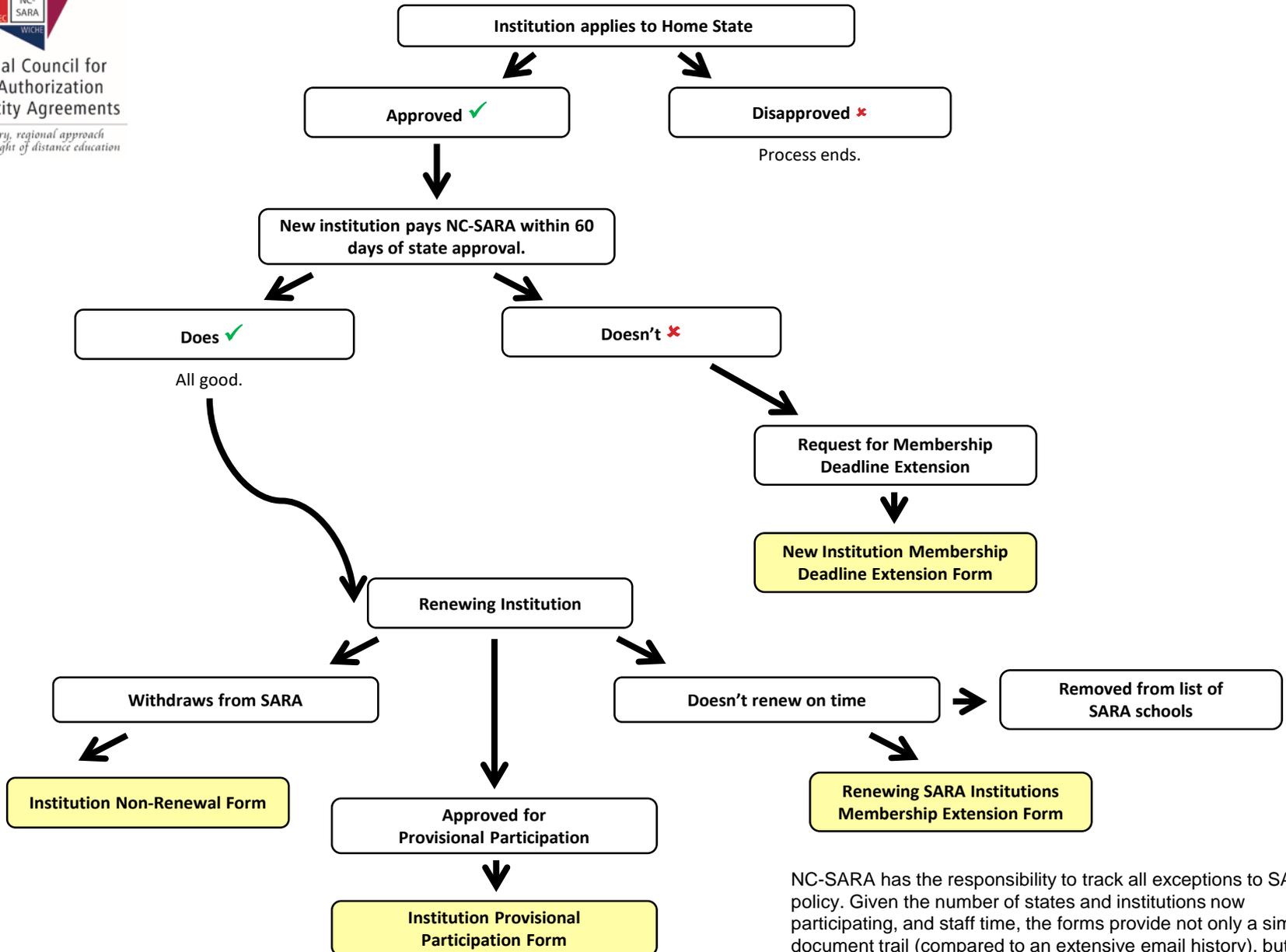




National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

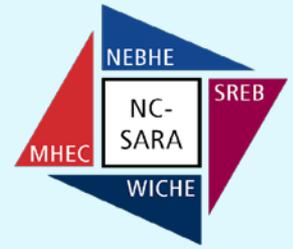
*A voluntary, regional approach
to state oversight of distance education*

SARA Administrative Forms Process



NC-SARA has the responsibility to track all exceptions to SARA policy. Given the number of states and institutions now participating, and staff time, the forms provide not only a simpler document trail (compared to an extensive email history), but more importantly, the approval process is confirmed at all levels to ensure accuracy of actions taken by NC SARA staff.

Enrollment Reports



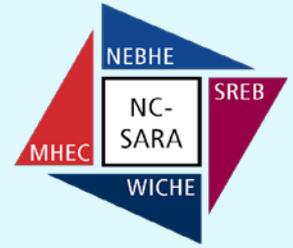
2017

- 1,477 institutions reported
- 1,170,725 total reported enrollments

2018

- institutions reported Enrollment Information
- Xx institutions reporting Out-of-State Learning Placement Information
- 2017 Report is available on the NC-SARA web page: www.nc-sara.org

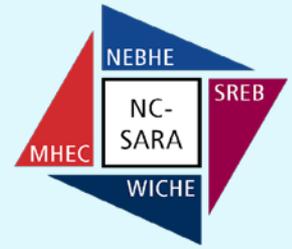
Experiential Learning Placement



Why deal with experiential education at all?

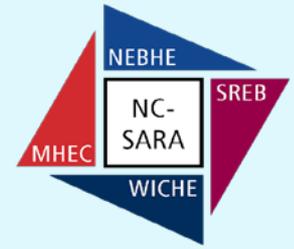
- Beneficial for students
- Many states regulate it
- Required for some degree programs (allied health, teaching, etc.)
- Programs intended to lead to licensure

Experiential Learning Basics for Licensed Professions



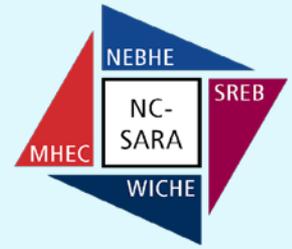
- Check with the state's licensing entity
- Meet their requirements
- SARA basic provisions
 - Ten students/program/site
- See *SARA Manual*, especially Sections 5.2 and 5.13

Professional Licensure Disclosures



- 10. [Agree to notify in writing](#) all students in a course or program that customarily leads to professional licensure, or which a student could reasonably believe leads to such licensure, whether or not the course or program meets requirements for licensure in the state where the student resides. *After making all reasonable efforts to make such a determination*, if unsuccessful, an institution cannot determine through its contact with relevant licensing entities whether the course or program meets licensure requirements in the student's state of residence, the institution may meet this SARA requirement by informing the student in writing and providing the student the contact information for the appropriate state licensing board(s). An e-mail dedicated solely to this purpose and sent to the student's best known e-mail address meets this requirement. The institution should use other means to notify the student if needed.
- [Institution Application](#)

Consumer Protection Includes...

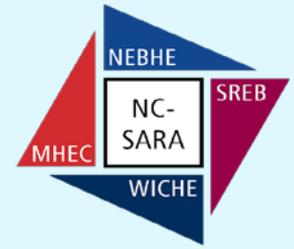


Provisions of the *SARA Manual*, including those for consumer protection and the resolution of complaints, apply to interstate distance education offered by participating SARA institutions to students in other SARA states.

Examples of issues that may arise in regard to alleged fraudulent activity or more general complaints include, but are not limited to:

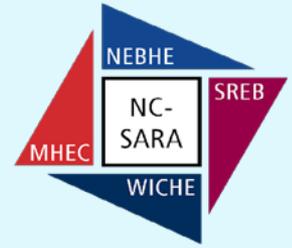
- Veracity of recruitment and marketing materials;
- Accuracy of job placement data;
- Accuracy of information about tuition, fees and financial aid;
- Complete and accurate admission requirements for courses and programs;
- Accuracy of information about the institution's accreditation and/or any programmatic/specialized accreditation held by the institution's programs;
- Accuracy of information about whether course work meets any relevant professional licensing requirements or the requirements of specialized accrediting bodies;
- Accuracy of information about whether the institution's course work will transfer to other institutions; and
- Operation of distance education programs consistent with practices expected by institutional accreditors (& programmatic/specialized accreditors) and/or the *C-RAC Guidelines* for distance education.

What SARA Doesn't Cover



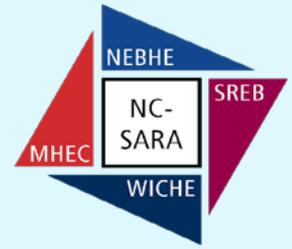
- Professional licensure board requirements.
- Secretary of State registration.
- “Agent for Service of Process” applications.
- Workers’ Compensation Insurance.
- Physical locations to offer instruction.
- Providing office space for faculty or staff.
-
- (SARA Manual Section 5: Coverage and Limitations of SARA)

SARA News...continued



- Summary of May 2018 NC-SARA Board meeting and draft minutes are available at www.nc-sara.org
- Student and Institution Support
 - Former SHEEO “State Surveys” (August 2018)
 - Joint Project with WCET/SAN
 - [TheGuide](#)
 - Redesign of website (fall 2018)
 - Catalog of academic programs from SARA institutions (spring 2019)

SARA Resources



NC-SARA Website

www.nc-sara.org

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