Welcome to the SREB Electronic Campus

The Electronic Campus is for Adult and e-learners seeking e-learning courses or programs and information to start or resume their college education or to satisfy a job requirement. Here is your one stop access to opportunities and services designed to meet your needs.

Find the Courses and Programs That are Right for You!

The Adult Learner

Do you think that finishing your degree might improve your employment prospects? Search for Degree Completion Opportunities at TheAdultLearner.org

Financial Aid

SREB Initiatives
State Initiatives
Federal Initiatives
Calculator Links

Latest News

- SREB Electronic Campus helps students finish degrees online (ACCrp)
- Academic Common Market: Out-of-State Degrees, In-State Rates
- How Affordable is College? Check Your State's Profile
- Nationwide Reciprocity Bonds to Lower

February 23, 2016
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What Is State Authorization?

- States have laws and regulations governing the “operation” of higher education institutions within their borders to include out-of-state institutions enrolling residents in distance education courses and programs.
State Authorization

• The DOE requires a higher education institution to be *authorized, licensed or registered* in the state where it is located or risk losing Title IV eligibility

• 34 CFR 600.9 a and b

• Effective July 1, 2015
The Distance Rule

- 34 CFR 600.9 c
- Distance education providers must obtain authorization in every state where students reside
- Online students will lose Title IV eligibility if they reside in states where their institutions do not have state authorization
State Authorization The State Requirements

- Some states have unique requirements:
  - Refund policies
  - Disclosures
  - Enrollment document content
  - Catalog content
  - Externship/clinical sites

- Applicable to out-of-state institutions!!
Out of Compliance?

What Happens?

• Cease and desist orders
• Possible fines and institutional sanctions, etc.
• Very unpleasant situations, including lawsuits
• Student lawsuits
• Domino effect with accreditors and DOE
• Damaged reputation!!
SREB’s Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA)

- All 16 SREB states participate in SECRRA
- Voluntary for states and institutions
- Institutions participate only if state joins
- Limited to for-credit online courses and programs *activated* on the Electronic Campus
- SECRRA was the only regional reciprocity agreement in the nation until 2014
SREB’s Electronic Campus (EC)

- Launched in 1998 with 100 courses.
- Academic Year 2014-2015
  - Almost 37,000 courses for Fall 2014
  - more than 3,500 programs
- Institutions are regionally accredited, not-for-profit and chartered in a SREB state
- State review and approval
- Institutions meet *Principles of Good Practice and Common Standards*
The SARA solution

A nation-wide system of reciprocity administered by the four existing regional compacts
SARA establishes a state-level reciprocity process that will support 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
Essential Principles of SARA

- Open to degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors: public colleges and universities; independent institutions, both non-profit and for-profit.
- Sets forth a reasonable, uniform set of triggers of “physical presence”.
- Preserves state approval and oversight of on-the-ground campuses.
SARA Ongoing Activities

- State membership and institutional participation and renewal
- Complaint system reporting
- Data reporting manual and sharing agreement
- SPA manual
- Enrollment reporting
- Supervised field experiences
- SECRRA to SARA
SARA Member States

Number of SARA States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>States</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2015</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>July 2015</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2016</td>
<td>36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SARA Institutions

Number of SARA Institutions

- Jan. 2014: 0
- July 2014: 26
- Jan. 2015: 139
- July 2015: 358
- Jan. 2016: 616

SREB | Student Access Programs and Services
Types Of Institutions

Institutions by SIZE

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

• Professional licensing board requirements are independent of state authorization
• Some state higher education authorizing agencies will not approve a program until a licensing board approves the program
• Program approvals may be in addition to that of the higher education agency
Moving from SECRRA to SARA – Differences

• Consistent use of Physical Presence
  • NC-SARA FAQ’s and Policies & Standards documents
• All degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors
• Student Complaint Process formalized
• Institution approved
  • Not specific courses and programs
• Reduced authorization “costs” both financial and staff time
SREB is fully supportive of the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

- Cannot have a ‘competing’ reciprocity process
- Transition will impact the Academic Common Market/Electronic Campus
- Regional Compact for Health Professions
When – The Specifics

- SARA implementation in the SREB region is ongoing.
- In January 2014 announced when eight SREB states have joined SARA, SREB will announce the date SREB’s Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA) will be dissolved and remove the reciprocity agreement for the region.
11 SREB states are now SARA states. SECRRA will dissolve June 30, 2017.

Blue – SARA state
Green – Legislation needed
Orange – SARA application in process

District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico anticipate affiliating with SREB
Transitioning to SARA

• Reciprocity for students continues
  • Institutions maintaining SECRRA and transitioning to SARA will result in parallel operations.
  • States and Institutions will continue with current processes and procedures to maintain participation in SECRRA and reciprocity with the other SREB states.
After June 30, 2017

• Institutions in SREB states that do not join SARA after SECRRA dissolves will need to seek authorization from all states including the SREB region.

• Non-SARA institutions in SREB region after SECRRA will need to seek authorization from all states including the SREB region.
Financial Status of the SARA Initiative

- SARA working with all SARA partners (NC-SARA, MHEC, NEBHE, SREB and WICHE) is now almost fully dependent on fee revenue
- Current and projected revenues are sufficient to support SARA
- Consequently, NC-SARA has determined to keep fees at current levels through June, 2018
What’s Ahead For SARA?

• Complaint and enrollment reporting and publication:
  • Continuation of complaint reporting every quarter;
  • SARA institutions will report their out-of-state enrollments in May, 2016, with publication shortly thereafter;

• **SARA’s Electronic Campus**

• Nationwide all SARA institutions may participate in www.TheAdultLearner.org
Adult Degree Completion Guiding Principles (TAL.org)

1. Programs must be offered in an online or blended (hybrid) format
2. Program courses must be offered in a flexible academic format
3. Institutions offering degree completion programs must be "adult-friendly" (ALFI Principles)
4. Institutions must provide options for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and should recognize and apply previously earned credits toward eligible degree programs.
   - Prior Learning Assessment is not just one method or tool
   - Prior Learning Assessment is more than the acceptance of transferable credits.
Now That We’re Past the “Easy” Stuff…

• Continue to add states and institutions
• Implications and implementation of IRS 501 (c)(3) status for NC-SARA
  – Establish independent budgeting, accounting, auditing and IT systems
  – Establish appropriate staffing levels
• Responding to “down-in-the-weeds” questions and policy issues
  – Physical presence
  – Experiential learning
  – Etc., etc., etc.
For More Information

• For more information: www.nc-sara.org
• To receive the NC-SARA newsletter, sign up at: www.nc-sara.org
• To receive the SREB State Authorization e-mail contact SARA@sreb.org or mary.larson@sreb.org

SREB SARA Websites
www.sreb.org/SARA or ide.sreb.org
Questions?

State Experiences SARA Campus
Authorization SECRRA Regional
SREB's Agency Tuition
Field Access
Happen
Reciprocity
Voluntary
Accreditation Online Savings Internships
Nationwide Postsecondary Score Clinical
Electronic Distance Regulations Follow Education
SREB Student Access Programs and Services