

# 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](#).

Share via link

Copy link to clipboard

• 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	<b>Jim Conely</b> <a href="mailto:jim.conely@ache.edu">jim.conely@ache.edu</a>	Yes		
	Alabama Community College System (ACCS)		<b>Tivoli Nash,</b> <a href="mailto:Tivoli.nash@accs.edu">Tivoli.nash@accs.edu</a>	Yes		
Alaska	Commission on Postsecondary Education	Online Distance Education Exemption	<b>Higher Education Authorization:</b> <a href="mailto:eed.acpe-ia@alaska.gov">eed.acpe-ia@alaska.gov</a>	No*	Submit short application for an exemption. Can be approved for up to two years. \$250 fee.	

• 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.
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		

• 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.
California	Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education	For Profit Registration Process  Non-profit/public 94801.5(c)	<b>Deborah Cochrane:</b> Deborah.Cochrane@dca.ca.gov	No*	No oversight of public or private non-profit. <b>BUT</b> 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.	<b>Heather Delange:</b> heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us	No Yes		
Connecticut	Office of Higher Education	Out-of-State Online Registration	<b>Sean Seepersad, PhD,</b> SSeepersad@ctohe.org	Yes		

• 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.
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: <a href="mailto:ihe@doe.k12.de.us">ihe@doe.k12.de.us</a>	Yes		
District of Columbia	Higher Education Licensure Commission	Distance/Online Education Inquiries	Terasita Edwards, <a href="mailto:terasita.edwards@dc.gov">terasita.edwards@dc.gov</a>	Yes		
Florida	Florida Department of Education	Authority/regulations	Susan Hood, <a href="mailto:Susan.Hood@fldoe.org">Susan.Hood@fldoe.org</a>	No		

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

• 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.
Indiana	Department for Workforce Development	Process	OCTS@dwd.in.gov .	Yes Yes Yes		
	Board for Proprietary Education		Ken Sauer, ksauer@che.in.gov			
	Commission of Higher Education					
Iowa	College Student Aid Commission	Process	Lisa Pundt, lisa.pundt@iowo.gov	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.
Kansas	Board of Regents	<p>See Private/Out of State guidelines</p> <p>See also: 74-32,163. Definitions</p>	<p><b>Crystal Puderbaugh,</b>  <a href="mailto:cpuderbaugh@ksbor.org">cpuderbaugh@ksbor.org</a></p>	Yes	Review def. of physical presence for applicability	
Kentucky	<p>Council on Postsecondary Education</p> <p>Council on Proprietary Education</p>	<p>Process</p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>Forms &amp; Legislation</p>	<p><b>Jevonda Keith,</b>  <a href="mailto:jevonda.keith@ky.gov">jevonda.keith@ky.gov</a></p> <p><b>Misty Edwards,</b>  <a href="mailto:misty.edwards@ky.gov">misty.edwards@ky.gov</a></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>		



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

• 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.
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. questions@mississippi.edu	No*	No oversight but appears the institution must make a communication with the state agency	
	Office of Proprietary Schools	Authority 2.16	Kim Verneuille, kverneuille@mccb.edu	No		

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

• 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.
<b>Nevada</b>	Commission on Postsecondary Education	State Institutional Licensure  Nevada Exemption for Distance Education	<b>Kelly D. Wuest,</b> kdwuest@decr.nv.gov	No*	Must submit exemption request – institution should check about experiential learning	
<b>New Hampshire</b>	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.	
<b>New Jersey</b>	Office of the Secretary of Higher Education	Licensure Process	<b>Eric Taylor, Esq.,</b> eric.taylor@oshe.nj.gov	Yes		

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

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

• 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.
Ohio	Department of Higher Education	Academic Program Approval	<b>Matt Exline,</b> <a href="mailto:mexline@highered.ohio.gov">mexline@highered.ohio.gov</a>	No	Contact agency for letter of exemption License required for For-Profit	
	Board of Career Colleges and Schools	Authorization of Distance Education Programs		No		
			<b>John Ware,</b> <a href="mailto:John.ware@scr.state.oh.us">John.ware@scr.state.oh.us</a>			
Oklahoma	Regents for Higher Education	Authority p3-4	<b>Daniel Archer,</b> <a href="mailto:darcher@osrhe.edu">darcher@osrhe.edu</a>	No Yes Yes	Look for new rules to be effective July 1, 2024 for authorization cycle beginning in 2025. <a href="#">70 O.S. § 4103</a> and <a href="#">70 O.S. § 4103.1</a>	
		Process	<b>Angela Moore,</b> <a href="mailto:angela.moore@obpvs.ok.gov">angela.moore@obpvs.ok.gov</a>			
	Board of Private Schools	Process	<b>Brent Haken,</b> <a href="mailto:Brent.Haken@careertech.ok.gov">Brent.Haken@careertech.ok.gov</a>			
	Board of Career and Technology Education					

• 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.
Oregon	Office of Degree Authorization	Process	Veronica Dujon, Veronica.dujon@state.or.us	Yes		
	Private and Career Schools	Process		Yes		
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			



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

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

• 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.
Vermont	Agency of Education	Authority (176a(e)(5))	<b>Cassandra Ryan,</b> <a href="mailto:Cassandra.Ryan@vermont.gov">Cassandra.Ryan@vermont.gov</a> <b>Emily Simmons,</b> <a href="mailto:emily.simmons@vermont.gov">emily.simmons@vermont.gov</a>	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	<b>Sandra Freeman,</b> <a href="mailto:sandrafreeman@schev.com">sandrafreeman@schev.com</a>	Yes	New process effective date 7/1/22	
Washington	Student Achievement Council	Authority	<a href="mailto:DegreeAuthorization@wsac.wa.gov">DegreeAuthorization@wsac.wa.gov</a>	No*	Experiential learning requires state institutional approval.	
	Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board	Authority	<b>Sam Loftin,</b> <a href="mailto:samL@wsac.wa.gov">samL@wsac.wa.gov</a>	No*		

• 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.
West Virginia	Higher Education Policy Commission	Authority Governance (Section 3 Def. Physical Presence)	Lucy Kefauver <a href="mailto:lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu">lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu</a>	No		
	Council for Community and Technical College Ed		Lucy Kefauver <a href="mailto:lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu">lucy.kefauver@wvhepc.edu</a>	No		
Wisconsin	Education Approval Program	Approval Information and Approval Flow Chart	Rebecca Larson <a href="mailto:Rebecca.larson@waicu.org">Rebecca.larson@waicu.org</a>	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 <a href="mailto:Elaine.marces@wyo.gov">Elaine.marces@wyo.gov</a>	Yes*	Short application and low cost.	

