

NC-SARA

Phillips Seminary is a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) is a private nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] that helps expand students' access to educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs.

Recognizing the growing demand for distance education opportunities, higher education stakeholders – including state regulators and education leaders, accreditors, the U.S. Department of Education, and institutions – joined together in 2013 to establish the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), which streamline regulations around distance education programs.

In partnership with [four regional compacts](#), NC-SARA helps states, institutions, policymakers, and students understand the purpose and benefits of participating in SARA. Today, more than 2,200 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all voluntarily participate in SARA.

Why NC-SARA Matters:

- Improves distance education program quality nationwide.
- Makes it easier for students to access distance education programs across state lines.
- Reduces costs and bureaucracy for states and institutions.
- Improves coordination between states on higher education opportunities.
- Provides valuable oversight of distance education programs.
- Shares out-of-state learning experience data like clinical hours and practice teaching.

NC-SARA's mission is:

- To provide broad access to postsecondary education opportunities to students across the country;
- To increase the quality and value of higher learning credentials earned via distance education; and
- To assure students are well served in a rapidly changing education landscape.

NC-SARA strives to achieve its mission in several ways. First and foremost, we work to promote and advance inter-regional alignment on core elements and requirements of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. This is instrumental to our efforts to expand quality postsecondary distance learning opportunities nationwide.

We also recognize the importance of collaborating with the full spectrum of stakeholders in the higher education community, including large- and small-scale distance education providers, institution accreditation agencies, elected state officials, state regulators, and state higher education executive officers. Through this collaboration, we also identify opportunities to participate in cooperative efforts of states and the larger higher education community to improve service to students and the nation through distance education.

Finally, we prioritize building public awareness of and support for SARA through regular communications to students, states, accreditors, institutional leaders and other stakeholders. It's important to consistently communicate the value and importance of SARA directly to those who benefit from these agreements.

NC-SARA's Student Complaints page : <https://nc-sara.org/student-complaints>