

# State Authorization and Reciprocity Basics

## What is State Authorization?

- Type of consumer protection regulated by states and territories
- Institutions are required to obtain state authorization when they offer out-of-state educational activities outside of their home state
- If caught offering educational activity without state authorization- the host state can assess steep fines to the university

## NC-SARA and Reciprocity

- The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (otherwise known as SARA)
- An agreement between 49 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Outlines reciprocity guidelines for post-secondary education institutions to offer distance education in another member state or territory
- The University of Kentucky is permitted to offer educational activities in California as a non-profit public institution.
- Other U.S. territories require additional authorization

## NC-SARA Coverage

### Covers

- Online activity
- Field Experiences (if equal to or less than **10** students per site and approved by state licensure board when applicable)
- Recruitment
- Advertising
- Field Trips
- Short courses and seminars
- Offerings on military bases

### Does Not Cover

- Field experiences with more than 10 students per site.
- Courses with both instructor and student physically in the same location.
- International educational activity.
- Licensure program courses and field placements (see next section)

## NC-SARA and Licensure Programs

- SARA has no effect on state professional licensing requirements
- A state licensure board can prohibit, limit, or require approval for distance education or field experiences in their state.
- Programs should check with the state licensure board before enrolling students located in that state.

A **licensure program** is any program that prepares students to pursue state licensure, certification, endorsements, etc. upon completion of the program.

## UK and State Authorization

- University of Kentucky Distance Learning manages the institution's compliance with NC-SARA and other authorization compliance requirements.
- Questions regarding state authorization or distance learning compliance can be directed to your college's compliance coordinator below.

Questions?  
Contact UK Distance Learning

[distancelearning@uky.edu](mailto:distancelearning@uky.edu)