

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Update

Summary

SARA allows accredited degree-granting institutions to offer distance education in other member states without having to seek individual authorization from those states. This report provides an update on the status of SARA in Kansas and nationwide.

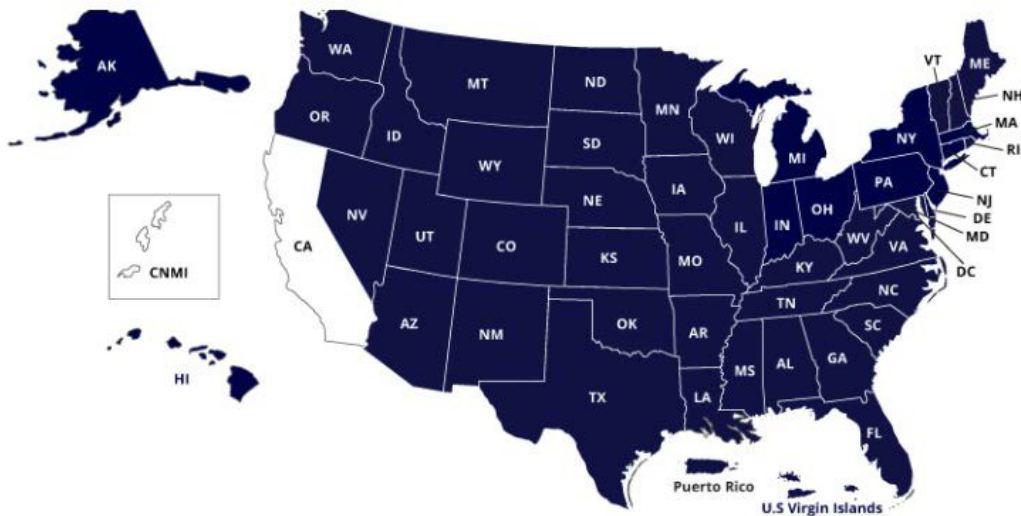
March 2, 2021

Background

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among its member states and US territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. Since 2014, Kansas has been approved as a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) through the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). The Kansas Board of Regents serves as the State Portal Entity (SPE) for all institutions domiciled in Kansas. As the portal entity, KBOR serves as the interstate point of contact for SARA questions, complaints, and other communications for institutions domiciled in Kansas and for students taking online courses from those institutions.

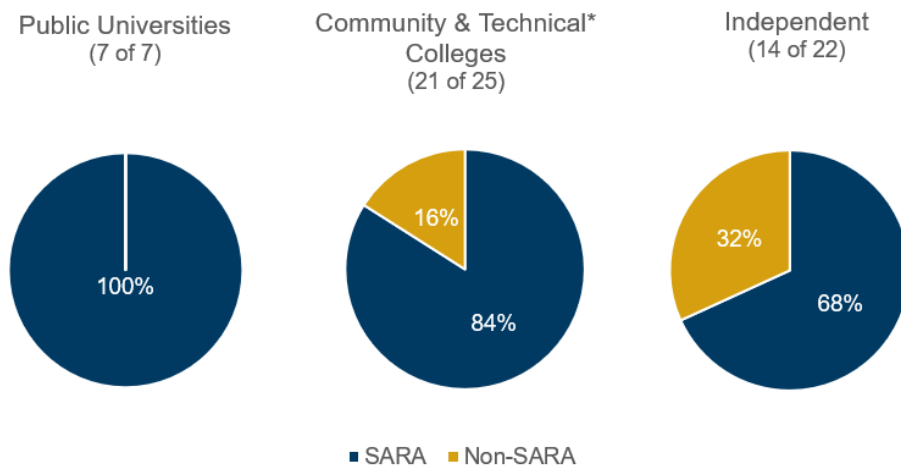
National Membership and Participation

For a state to participate in SARA, its legislature must authorize it to join the Agreement. Currently, there are over 2,000 participating institutions representing 49 member states, two territories (Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia.



Participation in Kansas

44 Kansas institutions are participating in SARA as of February 1, 2021. The charts below illustrate participation by sector¹.



*Washburn University Institute of Technology participates under the approval of Washburn University and is not included in this count

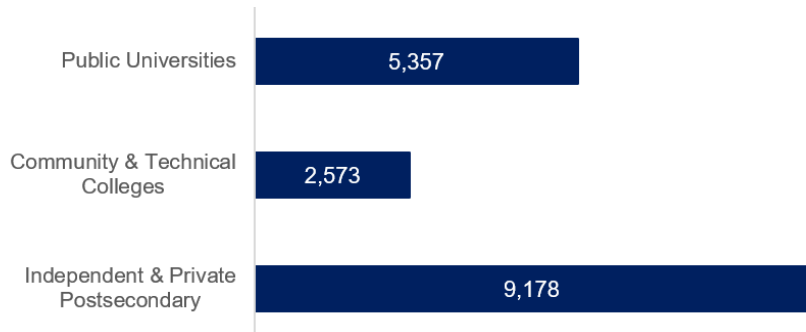
Enrollment Data

Participating SARA institutions agree to provide data representing their distance education enrollments to NC-SARA. NC-SARA initiated the first reporting cycle in 2016. Since that time, NC-SARA has evolved its reporting processes and procedures. These improvements have resulted in several changes to provide more consistent data. The most recent NC-SARA Data Report, published in December 2020, announced a change to the nomenclature used for reporting periods in the annual data reports. NC-SARA Enrollment Reports from previous years indicated a reporting year range. These were not tied to the academic year but the year the data was collected. This modification makes a clearer distinction as to which academic year from which the data is reported.

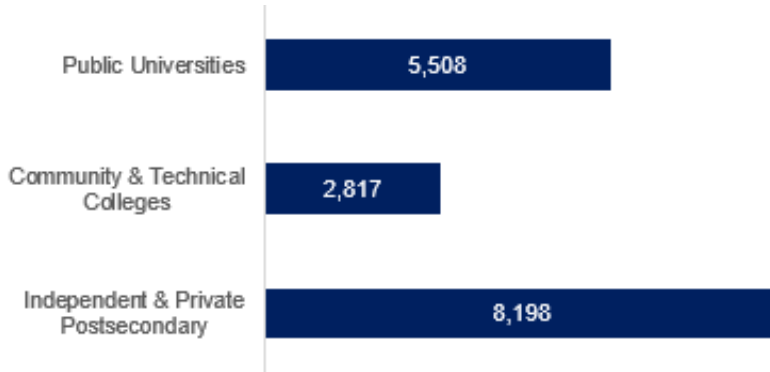
Last year, NC-SARA had not yet published the enrollment data used for this report but provided Kansas's enrollment data upon request. The data provided included the enrollments of Kansans in the out-of-state enrollment total resulting in an inflated count. The 2019 reporting year's corrected enrollments and the most recent enrollments from the 2020 report are provided below.

In AY 2018, over 17,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions.

¹ Two participating institutions are private postsecondary and not reflected in the charts by sector.

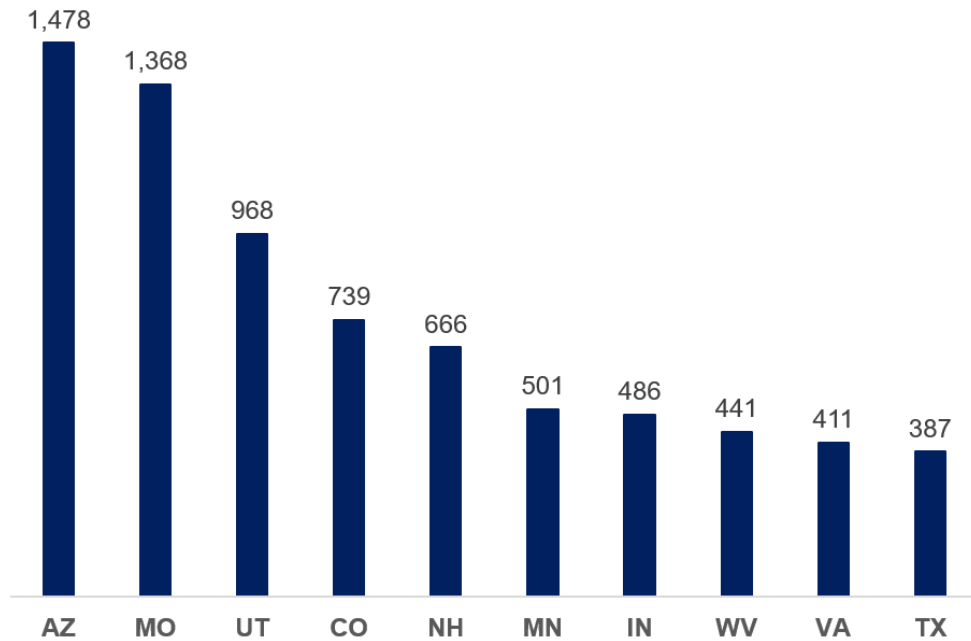


In AY 2019, over 16,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions.



The top three states where Kansas institutions are enrolling students are Missouri, Texas, and Georgia.

In AY 2019, over 11,000 Kansans were enrolled in distance education offered in another SARA member state. The top ten enrollments by state are listed below.

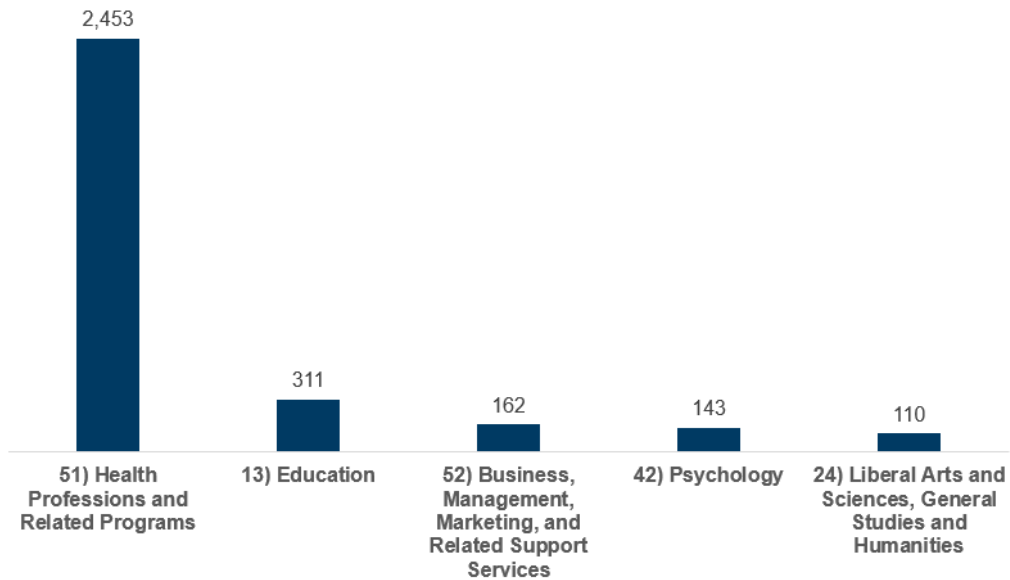


The top three institutions enrolling Kansans are Western Governors University, Southern New Hampshire University, and the University of Phoenix.

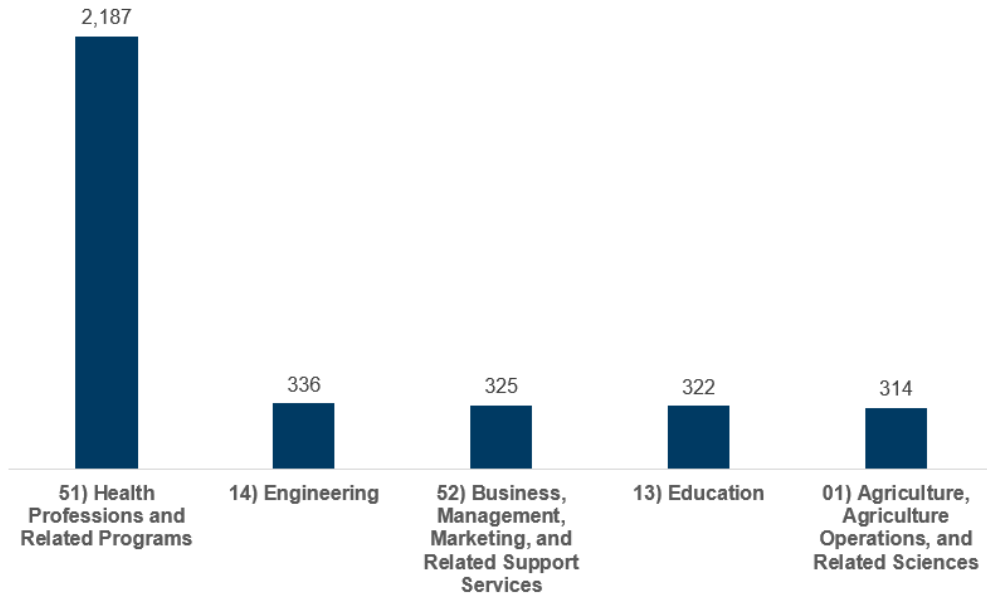
Out-of-State Learning Placements

SARA provisions cover a limited number of out-of-state learning placements except when there are additional requirements of the state's professional licensing entities. Since 2019, participating institutions have been required to report all out-of-state learning placements (clinical rotations, student teaching, internships, etc.) disaggregated by state and two-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code. Unlike the enrollments, which are reported by academic year, these placements are reported by calendar year. The most recent data report outlines the number of students from out-of-state institutions placed in Kansas, and the number of Kansas students placed out-of-state during the 2019 calendar year.

In 2019, over 3,800 out-of-state students were placed in Kansas. The following represents placements in the top five CIP codes.



In 2019, Kansas institutions placed over 4,500 students out-of-state. The following represents placements in the top five CIP codes.



This and previous SARA reports are available at http://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/sara.