

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.

February 19, 2020

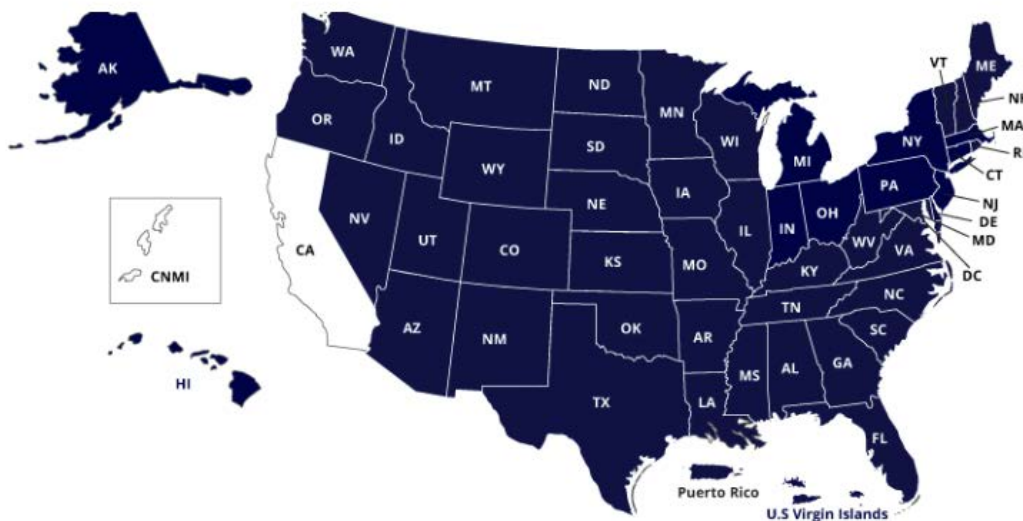
Background

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. 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

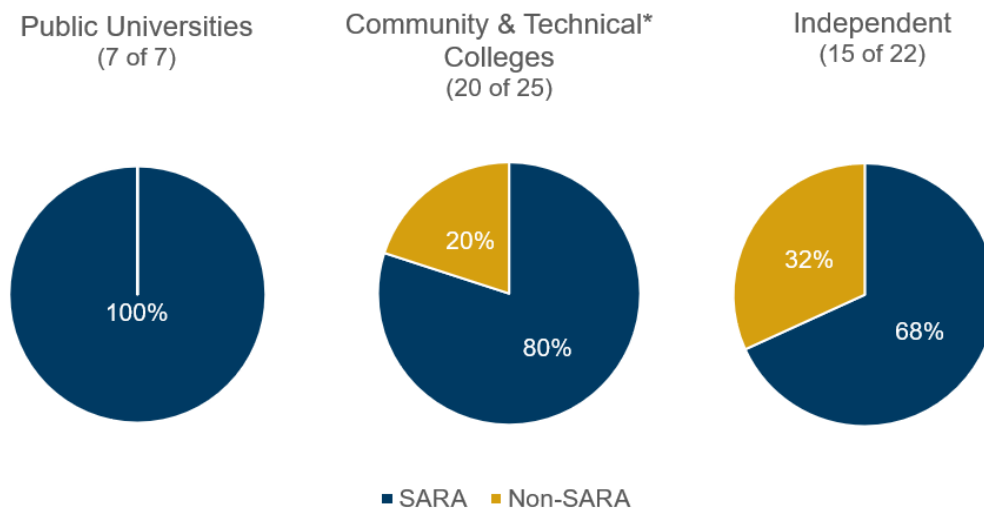
For a state to participate in SARA, its legislature must authorize it to join the Agreement. Currently, there are over 1,900 participating institutions representing 49 member states, two territories and one district. The number of member states and participating institutions has remained relatively flat from the previous year. Discussions with California continue regarding its interest in becoming a member state, but legislation enabling its membership has yet to be enacted.

As of February 1, 2020, 49 states, two territories (Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia have joined SARA (darkened areas).



Participation in Kansas

44 Kansas institutions are participating in SARA as of February 1, 2020. The charts below illustrate participation by sector¹.

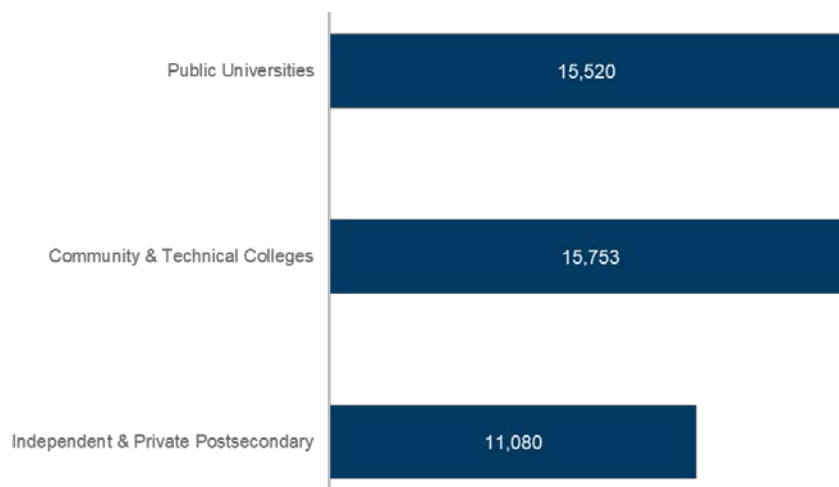


*Washburn University Institute of Technology participates under the approval of Washburn University and is not included in this count

Enrollment Data

Participating SARA institutions agree to provide data representing their distance education enrollments to NC-SARA annually. In AY 2019, over 42,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions.

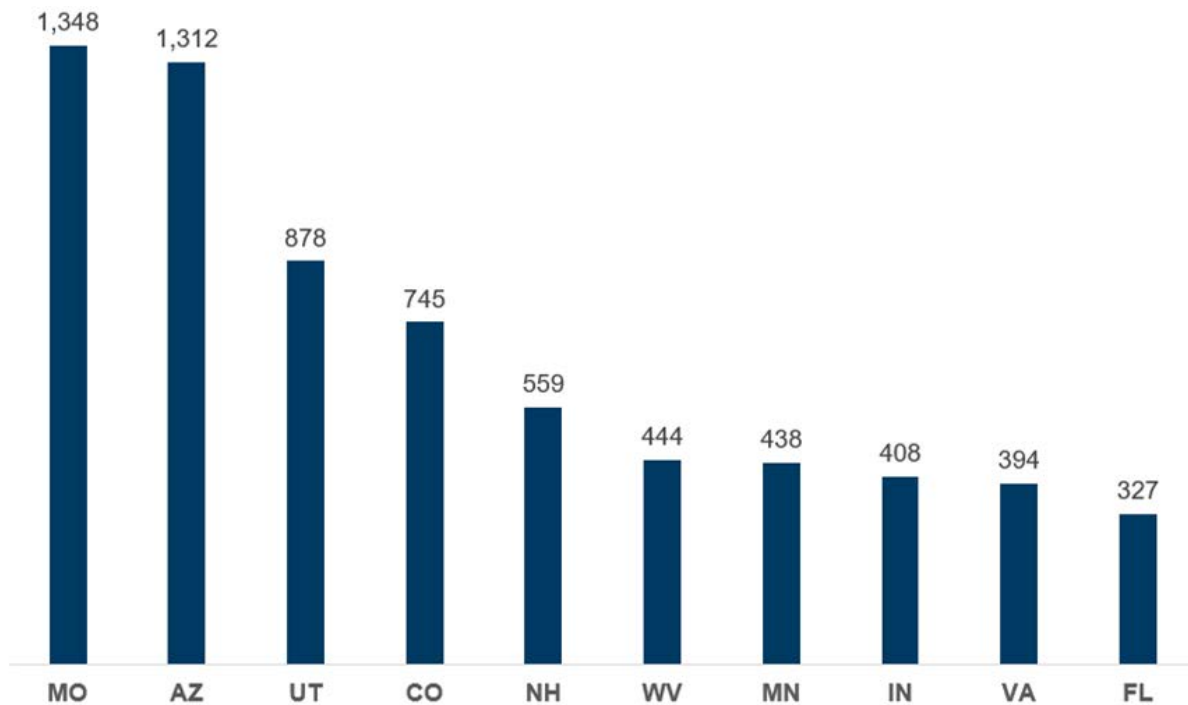
AY 2019 Enrollments



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

In AY 2019, over 10,000 Kansans were enrolled in distance education offered in another SARA member state. The top ten enrollments by state are listed below.

AY 2019 Enrollments



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. Beginning with the AY 2019 reporting period, participating institutions were 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. At this time, the information regarding these placements has not been released. Once it is released, NC-SARA staff have indicated it will not be fully published as there appear to be inconsistencies within the data reported during this first collection.

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