

3. Receive State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Report

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.

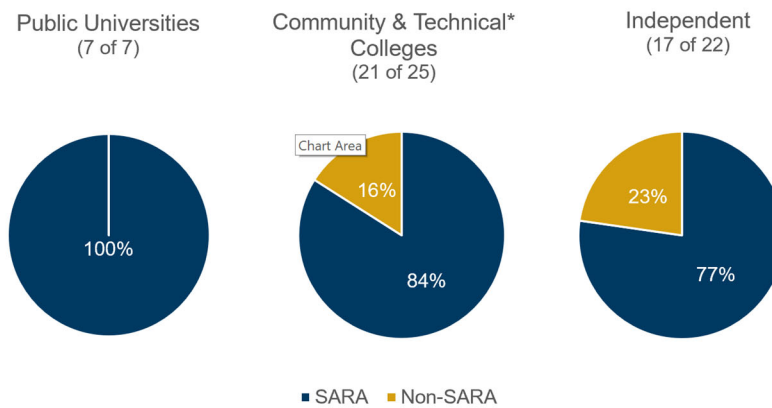
Background

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for the 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 students taking online courses from those institutions.

Membership and Participation

There are over 2,300 participating institutions representing 52 member states and territories. In the Fall of 2021, over four million students were enrolled exclusively in distance education, with one and a half million occurring through SARA. These enrollments are down from the previous year due to the return to in-person learning modalities, but an increase from 2019.

47 Kansas institutions are participating in SARA as of March 1, 2023. The charts below illustrate participation by sector¹.



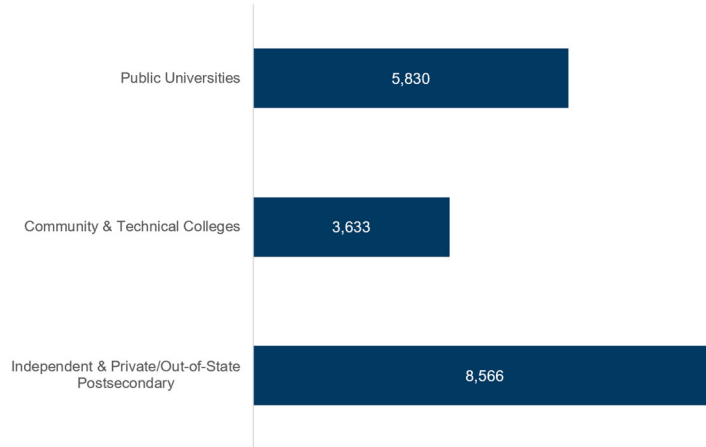
*Washburn University Institute of Technology participates under the approval of Washburn University and is not included in this count

¹ Two participating institutions are private/out-of-state postsecondary and not reflected in the charts by sector.

Enrollments and Out-of-State Learning Placements

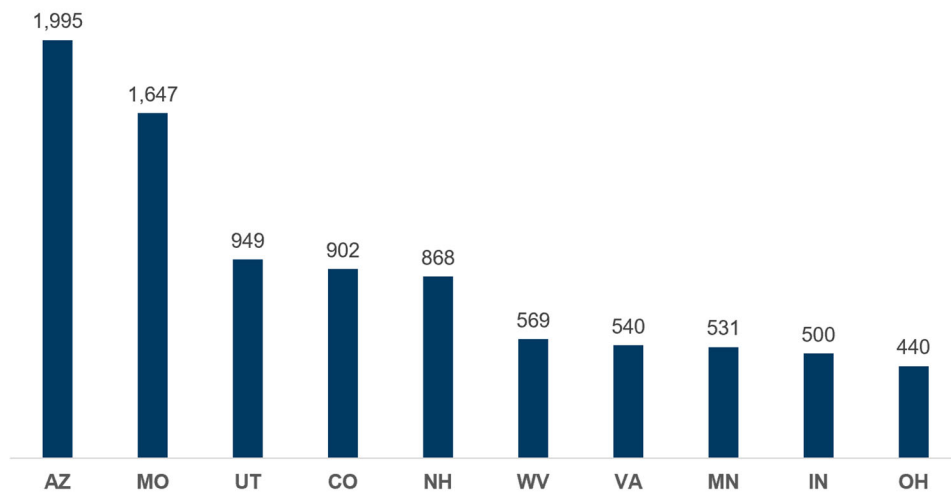
The Fall 2021 exclusively distance education enrollments and 2021 calendar year out-of-state learning placements for participating Kansas institutions are provided below.

In Fall 2021, over 18,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions.



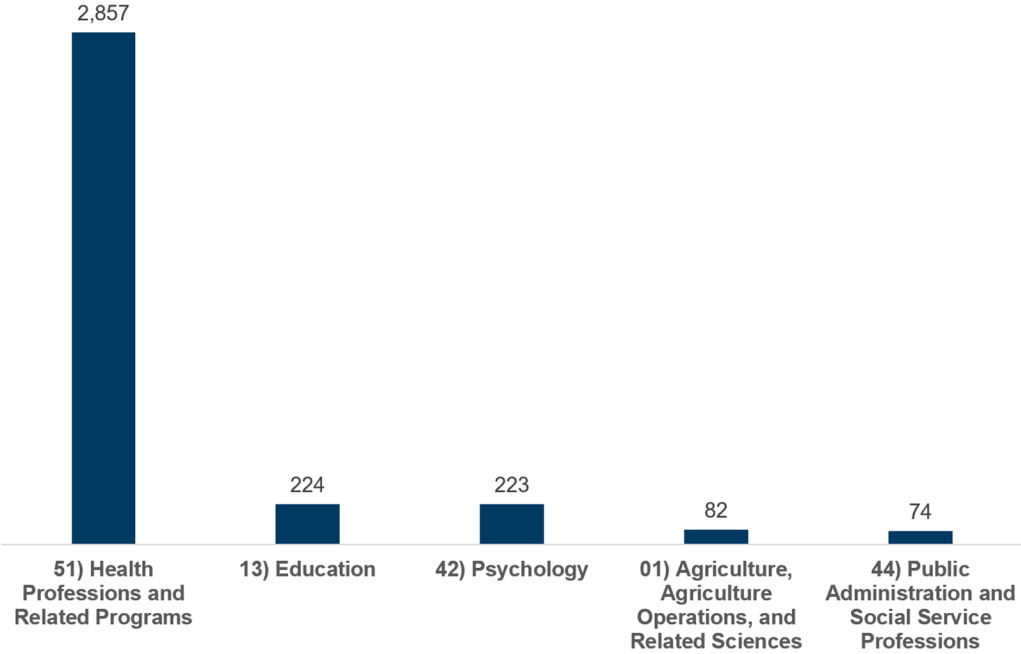
The top three locations where Kansas institutions are enrolling students are Missouri, Texas, and non-SARA member states and territories.

In Fall 2021, over 13,000 Kansans were enrolled in distance education offered in another SARA member state. The top ten enrollments by state are listed below.

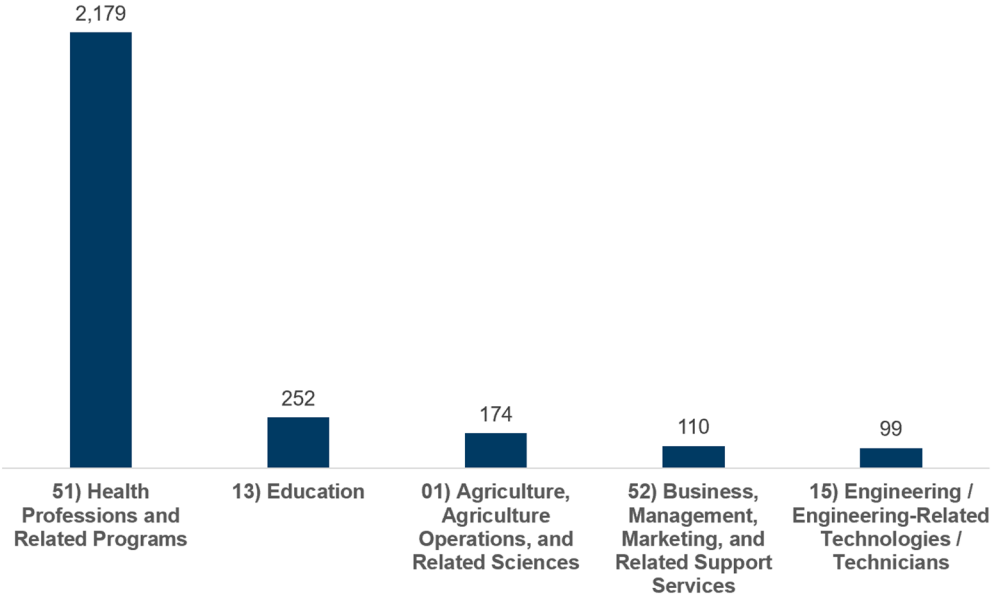


Western Governors University, Southern New Hampshire University, and Penn Foster College are the top three institutions enrolling Kansans.

In the 2021 calendar year, over 3,900 out-of-state students were placed in Kansas. The following represents placements in the top five CIP codes.

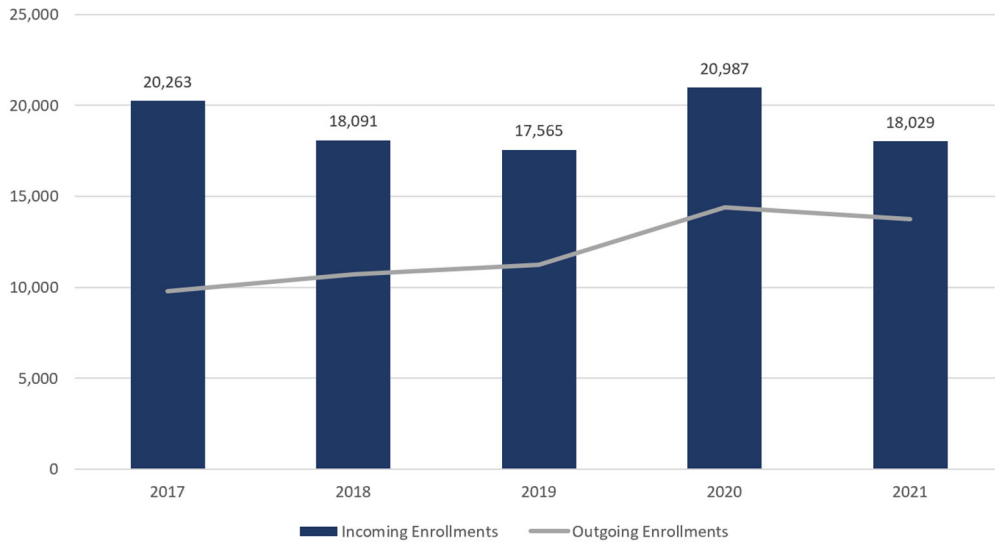


In the 2021 calendar year, Kansas institutions placed over 3,500 students out-of-state. The following represents placements in the top five CIP codes.



5-year Enrollment Data

NC-SARA now has enrollment data going back to the Fall of 2015. In recent years, the data collection methods have been standardized, giving us the opportunity to look at the data over time. The following represents the exclusively distance education enrollments in participating Kansas SARA institutions (incoming) as well as the enrollments of Kansans in other SARA states (outgoing) over the last five years.



The data provided in this report is available in interactive dashboards at <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>. This and previous SARA reports are available at http://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/sara.