New York State Now Eligible to Join NC-SARA

Streamlined regulations

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. Institutions located in New York were previously unable to participate in SARA, as New York State was not member of a regional compact for higher education, which is required for states to be eligible to join SARA. NYU worked with New York State regulators to contribute feedback on drafted legislative proposals to allow New York to join a regional compact, which in turn would allow the State to join SARA, and thus allow institutions based in New York to participate in SARA. That legislation has been passed and signed by the governor, and the New York State Board of Regents has been identified as the regulatory body that will serve as the SARA portal agency. As soon as procedures are established, which is expected to take 9 to 12 months, NYU will submit appropriate paperwork to become a SARA member.

What does this mean for NYU?

State authorization compliance will get easier! A lot of the restrictions currently in place will go away. For example, many states where NYU has to restrict enrollments for online offerings will no longer be restricted. The Office of Academic Program Review will provide more information on this as it becomes available.
State Regulation Changes

Minnesota

Minnesota was previously listed as a state where NYU students were restricted from completing non-classroom experiences, as NYU had not yet secured approval in Minnesota. A regulation change has occurred and NYU students are now welcome to complete non-classroom experiences in Minnesota, as this educational activity is no longer considered a trigger requiring authorization.

Maryland

At our last annual meeting, we had a focused discussion on NYU’s plan to submit an application to the Maryland Commission on Higher Education (MCHE) for all of NYU’s programs with required non-classroom experiences that could take place in Maryland. Due to the fact that the application included program level information, many of NYU’s state authorization liaisons prepared required paperwork. Just before the Office of Academic Program Review was going to submit the university’s application, Maryland announced a regulation change. The regulatory change allows for up to ten students per program per site location to complete a non-classroom experience without approval. The Office of Academic Program Review understands that with the nature of individual programs non-classroom experiences, no single site would ever exceed ten students simultaneously engaging in a non-classroom experience. Due to this, NYU will not be submitting an application to the MCHE. If your program has plans to send more than ten students at one time to the same site for a non-classroom experience, please contact Brianna Bates, Assistant Director of Academic Program Review at brianna.bates@nyu.edu immediately and she will create a plan to seek approval on behalf of your program.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts was previously listed as a state where NYU students were restricted from completing non-classroom experiences, as NYU had not yet secured approval in Massachusetts. State regulations in this state are currently under review and for the time being, all restrictions related to non-classroom experiences are lifted. However, it is possible that when the regulatory review is completed, restrictions might be reinstated.

North Dakota

Effective from August 1, 2015, individual programs that lead to licensure must notify students of their respective compliance status with the applicable licensure board(s) in North Dakota. Most programs embed such notifications within their official enrollment agreement.

Vermont

NYU previously experienced no restrictions of any educational activity in Vermont. This state is currently reviewing their regulations and drafting new policies. The Office of Academic Program Review is staying abreast of the changes and will update all units when more information is available.
Program Approval Process

The Office of Academic Program Review (APR) is the University’s liaison with educational authorities in New York State and other states in obtaining approvals to conduct educational activities either on site or through distance education. Individual schools are responsible for the preparation of required documents, which will be reviewed by APR before submission to the appropriate agency. New programs and requests for program or title changes need whatever individual school and University approvals are required before being officially sent by the Dean’s Office of the particular School to APR for review and submission to the New York State Education Department. NYU has recently added an additional form, the Non-NY State Authorization Form, which is now required when submitting proposals for new programs or program changes. The purpose of this form is to collect an accurate census of educational activities conducted outside of New York State. This form requests information about out-of-state activities such as non-classroom experiences (clinical experiences, fieldwork, internships, et cetera), marketing and/or advertising, distance education, or proctoring in a state other than New York. The form can be found here.

Policy Update from Capitol Hill

State Authorization Federal Regulation

U.S. Department of Education (ED) regulations governing state authorization have been reinstated. This means that state authorization and the processes to seek approvals in individual states will continue. A new requirement for institutions to provide students, including distance education students, with information on where they can go in their state of residence (not just the state in which the institution is physically located) to file a complaint against the institution if needed, has been added. Compliance with this regulation is required for institutions to maintain access to federal financial aid. The Office of Academic Program Review will be announcing a plan to comply with this regulation at the December 9, 2015 annual state authorization meeting.

Notice to Schools with Programs that Lead to Licensure

Please remember that university-wise state authorization approval is the responsibility of the Office of Academic Program Review. If your individual school has programs that lead to licensure, like nursing, social work or teacher education, it is the responsibility of the individual school or program to ensure that all out-of-state licensure board approvals are secured prior to sending a student to another state to complete a non-classroom experience. If you have questions about this, please contact Brianna L. Bates, Assistant Director of Academic Program Review at brianna.bates@nyu.edu.
Research and Innovation: NYU’s State Authorization Advisor

What is it?

The “TurboTax” of state authorization!

The Office of Academic Program Review partnered with the Office of University Enterprise Initiatives and NYU’s GovLab to attempt to build the first expert system to navigate higher education regulatory compliance for state authorization. This system was developed internally to support research of evolving higher education policies and regulations and explore the potential of leveraging technology to create a smart or expert system to decrease the burdens experienced when navigating specialized niche compliance challenges. NYU has made progress in developing an online state authorization tool that could provide institutions with the opportunity to concretely understand what, if any, action is required to comply based on their activity, as well as how much it will cost them. The system is comprised of a series of diagnostic questions tied directly to state agency policies and fees. Through probing for the entry of institutional characteristics and activity in each state, the system is able to generate a concrete action plan for compliance. This solution attempts to make accessible, through a user-friendly interface, the task of navigating complex regulations, especially for individuals who are not attorneys or policy experts.

How will it help?

Currently, there is no software available to help manage institutional state authorization compliance. As NYU expands and alters academic offerings, strategic compliance shifts need to be extracted from laws and regulations and summarized by hand. The NYU State Authorization Advisor has the capacity to potentially serve as content management software for institutional compliance that may be able to increase institutional knowledge by taking expert knowledge that typically lives within select individuals and making it accessible and understandable to anyone. The Office of Academic Program Review is currently exploring The Advisor’s capacity to be able to respond to individual schools and units when questions arise related to the current compliance status in individual states.

Want more information?

You may view a video that tells the story of how this innovative project evolved and more about the potential positive impact it will have. At the annual meeting on December 9, 2015 we will host an information session about this project.

The following individuals contributed their support, time, knowledge and expertise to this project:

- Harry Althaus, Director of Sales and Marketing, University Enterprise Initiatives
- Brianna L. Bates, Assistant Director, Academic Program Review
- Dinorah Cantu-Pedraza, Research Fellow @ NYU’s GovLab
- Barnett Hamberger, Associate Provost, Academic Program Review
- Alan Kantrow, Chief Learning Officer @ NYU’s GovLab
- Diana L. Karafin, Director, Assessment and Evaluation
- Richard Matasar, Former Vice President, University Enterprise Initiatives
- Cybele Raver, Vice Provost for Research and Faculty Affairs
- Louise Simon, Director of Administration and Planning, University Enterprise Initiatives
NYU State Authorization Industry Activity

- In November 2014, Brianna Bates, Assistant Director, Academic Program Review presented with Diana L. Karafin, Director, Academic Assessment and Evaluation at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Annual Conference. Their presentation was geared towards an audience of institutional representatives that either currently task on state authorization or are just becoming aware of state authorization. The presentation was entitled, “State Authorization: Steps to Success”.

- In April 2015, Brianna attended a State Authorization Workshop that was sponsored by WCET & Franklin University. This provided a unique opportunity to network with peer schools that are also navigating state authorization compliance and for participation in a mentor working-group.

- In August 2015, Brianna attended the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Higher Education Policy Conference, which focused on Changing Higher Education to Serve the New American Student.

- In August 2015, Brianna presented to the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors for Private Schools (NASASPS). The presentation was geared towards an audience of state regulators and was entitled, “Discover New York University, What Are Institutions Doing to Comply with State Authorization Requirements”.

- In August 2015, Brianna presented to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, State Authorization Network (WCET SAN). The presentation was geared towards an audience of institutional representatives grappling with state authorization compliance and was entitled, “Methods for Tracking Students Locations”.

- In September 2015, Brianna attended the Schools for Tomorrow, New York Times Annual Conference, which featured discussions about “A New Model for Higher Education”. Recorded sessions are now available for those who are interested.

- In January 2016, Brianna and Diana will present at the Hawaii International Conference on Education (HICE), which is sponsored by Pepperdine University, Drexel University, University of Louisville and California State University (East Bay). Their presentation is entitled, “A Content Analysis Approach to Managing and Using Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Data in Higher Education”. Brianna will also present on “NYU’s Methods for tracking Free Range Distance Education Students & the Traditional Student for State Authorization Compliance”.

- In October 2015, Brianna attended an Open Textbooks Conference in North Dakota, where she presented on “Using Technology and Innovation to Support State Authorization Compliance. A video of this presentation will be available soon.

Welcome Sue-Yeon Song

Sue-Yeon Song, a Ph.D. candidate in Higher & Postsecondary Education program at Steinhardt, recently joined the Office of Academic Program Review as a Graduate Student Research Analyst. Prior to joining our team, Sue-Yeon worked as a researcher at Seoul National University’s Institute for Social Development and Policy Research in South Korea. As part of her dissertation, she is conducting research on changing governance in higher education from a cross-national perspective. Sue-Yeon will be supporting the Office of Academic Program Review on many projects this year and you may hear from her via email or telephone. Please join us in welcoming Sue-Yeon to our team!

She can be reached at 212-998-2093 and sueyeon.song@nyu.edu.
State Authorization Excellence:

NYU Recognized with a Prestigious Industry Award

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education presents annual awards from their State Authorization Network (SAN) department. NYU has been selected as the recipient for the 2015 SANsentational Award for excellence in the category of “Location: How do you identify where your students are located”. The award was for demonstrating excellence in innovation, forward-thinking, and truly compliance-centric systems and policies.

WCET noted that the pool of nominations this year was exceptionally competitive. NYU will be presented with a formal plaque at an award ceremony at WCET’s annual conference in November. NYU’s Office of Academic Program Review partnered with other NYU units to develop a way to track where students are completing their non-classroom experiences. You may view details of NYU’s system or watch a webinar presentation on the system.

Acknowledgements and appreciation go to the following offices and individuals for sharing their time, knowledge and skills to make this system possible:

Office of the Provost
- Cybele Raver, Vice Provost of Research and Faculty Affairs
- Barnett Hamberger, Associate Provost, Academic Program Review
- Brianna L. Bates, Assistant Director, Academic Program Review

Office of Institutional Research
- Rachel Maxwell, Director of Reporting & Survey Research
- Kimiko Altamirano, Senior Reporting Analyst

Wasserman Career Center
- Trudy Steinfeld, Executive Director, Center for Career Development
- Berndette So, Director of Graduate Student Career Development
- Richard Orbe-Austin, Former Director of Graduate Student Career Development

You’re Invited!

Save the Date

NYU’s Annual State Authorization Meeting
Wednesday, December 9th, 2015
2:00-3:30pm
Visit NYU’s State Authorization website