

STATE AUTHORIZATION FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION

Amendments to the U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Act of 1965 may impact online, distance and print-based education providers. §600.9(c) State Authorization states: If an institution is offering postsecondary education through distance or correspondence education to students in a State in which it is not physically located or in which it is otherwise subject to State jurisdiction as determined by the State, the institution must meet any State requirements for it to be legally offering postsecondary distance or correspondence education in that State. An institution must be able to document to the Secretary the State's approval upon request.

STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

Washington College was approved as a participating institution in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) effective October 2020. This clears the way in all other SARA states to enroll in any of our distance education courses.

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts and 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. SARA is overseen by a national council and administered by four regional education compacts. Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia are members of SARA. For more information on SARA, please visit www.nc-sara.org.

Currently, there are 49 states (all but California), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands that have joined SARA. While California is not a participant of SARA, they have met their obligation under §600.9(c) State Authorization such that they have provided students information about lodging complaints with either the state in which the student is located or through a reciprocity agreement in which the institution participates. Thus, students participating in distance education at Washington College are eligible to receive TIV aid due to adherence by all states to §600.9(c) State Authorization.

Washington College will continue to monitor the status of states with NC-SARA. Should a state discontinue membership with NC-SARA and do not provide a path for lodging a complaint, students attending Washington College by way of distance education will no longer be eligible for TIV aid.