



2023 Annual Report

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	1
CPE SARA Stats for 2023 as of 12/31/23	2
Institution Members.....	2
SARA Formal Complaints.....	3
Enrollment	3

Introduction

Kentucky became a member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) in October 2016. <http://nc-sara.org/> and <https://www.cpe.ky.gov/campuses/sararequest.html>

SARA is overseen by a national council. The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) was established to help expand students' access to educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance learning programs.

SARA is administered by the four regional higher education compacts, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Kentucky is a SREB compact state, and CPE is a member of the S-SARA Regional Steering Committee. <https://www.sreb.org/state-authorization-sara>

As the NC-SARA State Portal Entity Contact for Kentucky, CPE reviews applications from Kentucky institutions wanting to become SARA-approved by the state so that those institutions may offer distance education to residents of other states.

Institutions are eligible to apply for participation in SARA if they:

- Are located in a SARA member state;
- Are a degree-granting Institution, appropriately authorized (by Congress, a U.S. state, territory or district, or a federally recognized Indian tribe) to award associate degrees or higher;
- Are institutionally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and whose scope of recognition, as specified by the U.S. Department of Education, includes distance education;
- As a non-public institution, meet the institutional financial responsibility requirements for SARA participation.

Detailed information about institutional eligibility is found in the SARA Policy Manual, Section 3.1.

CPE also serves as the agent for complaints filed relative to KY SARA approved institutions, and facilitates the resolution of complaints filed by Kentucky residents relative to out-of-state institutions.

SARA does not cover professional licensing board approval for programs leading to state licensing in fields such as nursing, teacher education, psychology, etc.

SARA, in alignment with federal regulations, does, require that proper notification be given to students as to whether courses and programs will meet the professional licensure requirements in states where students are located.

For reference:

- KRS 164.540(3) <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=45057>
- 13 KAR 4:010 <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/013/004/010.pdf>

CPE SARA Stats for 2023 as of 12/31/23

Institution Participating Members

- Annual SARA KY Institution Renewals = 48
 - Public 4-year Institutions = 8
 - Public 2-year Institutions = 16
 - CPE Licensed Institutions = 24
 - For-Profit = 2
 - Non-Profit = 22
 - KCPE¹ Licensed Institutions = 0
- New SARA KY Institution Memberships Approved = 3
 - CPE Licensed Institutions = 3
 - For-Profit = 0
 - Non-Profit = 3
- Total SARA KY Institution Members as of 12/31/23 = 51
 - Public 4-year Institutions = 8
 - Public 2-year Institutions = 16
 - CPE Licensed Institutions = 27
 - For-Profit = 2
 - Non-Profit = 25
 - KCPE² Licensed Institutions = 0

¹ Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education (KCPE) licenses for-profit and non-profit institutions offering only below the bachelor's degree level.

² Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education (KCPE) licenses for-profit and non-profit institutions offering only below the bachelor's degree level.

- Institutions on Provisional Membership = 1
 - CPE Licensed Institutions = 1
 - Non-Profit = 1

Reasons: 1) The Institution is currently required by the U.S. Department of Education to post a letter of credit or is under a cash management agreement with the U.S. Department of Education; and 2) The Institution's Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Score falls between 1.0. and 1.5.

- Institutions Not Renewed for Membership = 0

SARA Formal Complaints

- Total number of complaints facilitated against KY SARA institutions = 1
 - For-Profit = 0
 - Non-Profit = 0
 - Public = 1
- Total number of complaints received from KY residents against out-of-state SARA institutions and referred to the state's State Portal Entity for facilitation = 0

Enrollment

- Out-of-State Students Attending KY SARA Institutions, Fall 2022 = 21,465
 - This represents KY SARA Institutions enrolling residents from all SARA member states.
- Kentucky In-State Students Attending NC-SARA (non-Kentucky) Institutions, Fall 2022 = 20,517
 - This represents NC-SARA (non-Kentucky) Institutions enrolling KY residents.

Source: <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>