Proposed SARA Manual Changes for the May 2020 Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Please Note:

- The webcast will begin at the top of the hour.
- There is no audio being broadcast at this time.
NC-SARA - Logistics

Welcome!

Please use the **Question and Answer** box for questions.

The webcast will be recorded.

This PowerPoint and any other resources referenced will be emailed next week to all who registered and available on our website.
Presenters

Lori Williams, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, NC-SARA

Alan Contreras, J.D., Senior Consultant, NC-SARA
Agenda

• The Current SARA Landscape
• Proposed SARA Manual Changes:
  • Modifications to Align with Federal Regulations
  • Modifications to Clarify Processes
• Draft Process Documents:
  • Branch Campuses
  • Provisional Status
  • Complaints
• Questions and Discussion
52 Members in SARA
49 states, the District of Columbia
Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands

2083 participating institutions
- March 2020
Modifications to Align with the Federal Regulations

Section 2.5(h.1.)
was adjusted to align with Federal Regulations that were inadvertently left out of the SARA Manual.

Section 5.2
programs leading to Professional Licensure adjusted to correlate to new Federal Regulations.
Modifications to Clarify Processes

Section 2.5(c)
clarification on the need for all states to have a process to review institutions with a Federal Financial Responsibility Composite score between 1.0 and 1.5.

Section 2.5(e)
clarification of language regarding to which agency or body an institution may appeal a decision regarding participation in SARA.

Section 2.5(i)(7)
clarification of SARA student complaints attending an out-of-state branch campus.
Modifications to Clarify Processes

Section 2.5(o)
clarification of regulation of online/Distance Education activities by the Host State.

Section 2.5 (q)
adition of this sentence. “States shall have a process for considering applications for provisional status.”

Section 4.4(d)
treatment of SARA student complaints from a branch campus.
Modifications to Clarify Processes

Section 5.3
Field trips and seasonal residential activity, clarification of policy with adjustment of words in Explanatory Note: SARA covers class field trips that do not involve multi-night residency

Section 5.7(a)
to align with SARA Policy, add, “and the provisions of section 2.5, subsections n and o.”
Modifications to Clarify Processes

Section 6.1 (b) and (c)
modify to reflect data policy and remove process information.

Section 6.2
modify to reflect data policy and remove process information.
Questions?
DRAFT – Process Documents

- Provisional Status
- Branch Campuses
- Complaints
Provisional Status

A SARA State Portal Entity may consider 8 reasons to place an institution on Provisional Status (SARA Manual Section 3.2).

NC-SARA will provide indication of the institution’s Provisional Status on the NC-SARA website.

FORMS:
(AF3) SARA Institution Provisional Participation
(AF4) SARA Institution Provisional Participation Extension
Branch Campus Determination:

- Does the Home State recognize it as a branch?
- Does the accreditor recognize it as a branch?

If yes to both, it is a branch campus for the purposes of SARA.

If it is not considered a branch by both the Institution’s Home State and its accreditor, it is not a branch for SARA purposes.
Branch Campus Complaints:

A student enrolled in a branch campus may complain to:

- SARA State Portal Entity where the branch campus is located
- Institution’s Home SARA State Portal Entity

The State Portal Entity receiving the complaint shall notify the other affected State Portal Entity of the complaint.

The Home State Portal Entity is responsible to determine the disposition of a complaint against a branch campus of any of its SARA participant institutions.
DRAFT
Process Documents – Complaints

SARA Student Complaint Process

Student files
Complaint with
the Institution

Complaint NOT
resolved at
Institutional level

Student may appeal to
the Institution’s SARA
State Portal Entity as
noted on the NC-SARA
website

Student appeals to
SARA State Portal
Entity (Institution
Home State)

Branch State
SARA State
Portal Entity
notifies the Home
State SARA State
Portal Entity

Institution Home
SARA State Portal
Entity notifies the
SARA State Portal
Entity of the
student’s location

SARA Home
State Portal Entity
makes final
determination of
SARA
Complaint(s)

Quarterly,
Institution Home
State
Portal Entities
report status of
Complaint(s) to
NC-SARA

Complaint resolved at
Institutional level

Process ends; no
notification to SARA
State Portal Entity

Process ends

*Student complaints about grades or student conduct may not be appealed to the SARA State Portal
Entity. Complaints about fraud or criminal activity should be reported to your state Attorney General
or the Office of Inspector General or complaint unit of the Dept of Education.

3/4/2020
Questions and Discussion

Please share your comments/thoughts with us regarding the proposed changes:

- Institutions
- State Portal Entity Staff
- Regional Compacts Staff
- Friends of SARA
For Questions:  Info@nc-sara.org
NC-SARA Website:  www.nc-sara.org