



SARA Quick Start Guide

Students Located Overseas: Military or Non-Military

Are military students deployed overseas covered by SARA?

Are other U.S. non-military students living in other countries covered by SARA?

What does the *SARA Policy Manual* Say?

See the [SARA Policy Manual](#) Section 5.6 Offerings on military bases:

Section 5.6 Offerings on military bases

All distance education course offerings provided interstate by a SARA participant institution to active and reserve military personnel, their dependents, and civilian employees of the installation located on a U.S. military facility or vessel in a SARA member state are covered by SARA. If such offerings are open to the general public for enrollment, SARA does not apply and state law where the facility or vessel is located applies. Veterans Affairs facilities are not considered “military facilities” for purposes of SARA.

See also Section 5.10 Physical Presence.

What is the rationale?

Because SARA is an agreement between U.S. states, territories, and districts, it does not apply to other countries. If a U.S. student -- military or otherwise -- of a SARA-participating institution goes to another country and continues their education online through that SARA institution, the institution needs to abide by whatever laws or regulations that foreign country has that are relevant to the situation.

What does my institution need to do?

- Verify the location of students located overseas.
- Work with the country’s Ministry of Education (or equivalent) to determine the laws and regulations to provide distance education to students in the country.
- It is recommended that institutions have a system for regularly tracking student locations.

Still Have Questions?

1. SARA State Portal Entities have the responsibility and authority to hold institutions in compliance with SARA policy. This information is intended to be general guidance for institutions; institutions should be in regular contact with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#) for specific requirements, directions, and guidance.
2. Feel free to email NC-SARA: info@nc-sara.org

About SARA Quick Start Guides: When institutions participate in SARA, they agree to a set of compliance requirements as detailed in the [SARA Policy Manual](#). SARA Quick Starts are intended to help institution personnel understand a particular requirement to help them maintain compliance, communicate with colleagues regarding SARA requirements, and explain the requirement to students and other stakeholders. Institutions should always check for any state-specific requirements with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#).

Resources:

- [SARA Policy Manual](#), Section 5.6, Section 5.10
- *SARA Quick Start Guide: Students Located on Military Bases*

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