

State Authorization & Licensure Disclosures

Programs leading to licensure in a professional field

Because licensure requirements vary by state, it is important to ensure that our program meets the requirements of the state in which you plan to practice. We encourage you to visit MSU's State Authorization search tool (https://apexprod.msu.montana.edu/apex/r/esg/s_location_policy/public-view) to review state-specific licensure information and determine whether our program aligns with your professional goals, your home state's requirements or those of the state where you hope to work in the future. Taking this step early can help ensure that you are making the most informed decision as you explore your options and plan your path forward.

What is State Authorization?

State authorization refers to federal, state and professional licensing board regulations that impact educational activities offered across state lines and programs that lead to professional licensure or certification. Compliance with these regulations ensures that a Montana State University degree will be recognized.

Authorization requirements vary by state and program and may impact university operations. At Montana State University, we are dedicated to researching regulations, seeking and maintaining compliance, and communicating changes in authorization status.

NC-SARA

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative that increases student access to distance education courses and programs while maintaining compliance with state regulations. Institutions participating in SARA can offer educational opportunities in all 49 SARA member states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico (<http://nc-sara.org/>) without seeking individual approval in each state.

Montana State was approved as a SARA institution in 2015. Participation expands educational opportunities for Montana State students, decreases institutional risk, and reduces costs associated with offering Montana State programs nationally.

To learn more about SARA, visit nc-sara.org (<http://nc-sara.org/>).

SARA State Complaint Process

Students enrolled in a course that takes place outside of Montana in a SARA member state (<https://www.nc-sara.org/state-portal-entity-contacts>) must first follow Montana State's procedures (<https://www.montana.edu/provost/students/complaints.html>) for the resolution of complaints. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of that process, a complaint involving allegations of dishonest or fraudulent activity, including the provision of false or misleading information, may be brought to the Montana SARA portal entity (<https://www.mus.edu/che/arsa/StateAuthorization/Students.html>). The SARA portal entity in the state where the student is located will be notified that the complaint was received and may assist as needed. Resolution of the complaint by the Montana SARA portal entity is final.

Examples of types of student complaints that may be brought to a SARA portal entity include, but are not limited to, complaints regarding accuracy of job placement data, tuition or fee information, accreditation, whether a program meets professional licensing requirements, or course transfer

information. Grade appeals and student conduct appeals should be addressed through the Montana State campus processes.

Non-SARA State Complaints

Students participating in a course that takes place in a non-SARA state may file a complaint with the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (<https://mus.edu/che/>) or may file a complaint in the state where the student is located.