

Online Students Living Outside of North Carolina

Living Outside of North Carolina

If you are living outside of North Carolina while taking courses at ECSU, you must be sure that ECSU is authorized to offer educational services in your state or U.S. territory. Furthermore, if you are located outside North Carolina and are enrolled in a program that leads to professional licensure, you should know whether ECSU's program meets the professional licensing board requirements in the state or territory where you are located.

Elizabeth City State University participates in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), which establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. Through its participation in NC-SARA, ECSU is authorized to offer distance education courses and programs to students located in other SARA member states, subject to state-specific requirements and limitations.

NC-SARA membership includes most U.S. states and territories (such as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). California is not a SARA member; however, as a public institution, ECSU is permitted to enroll students residing in California in online programs in accordance with state regulations. For non-SARA locations, ECSU must evaluate and comply with applicable state or territorial authorization requirements before offering certain educational activities.

A map of authorized states and territories is available at <https://nc-sara.org/directory/>.

Your Responsibilities

Depending on what kind of learning activity you are engaged in and where you are located at the time, additional requirements may apply.

You may be required to complete acknowledgments related to:

- Professional licensure disclosures
- State authorization requirements
- Field placement or internship approvals

If you have questions, please contact: de@ecsu.edu

Enrolled in an online course and/or online program

If you are enrolled in an online course or program and reside outside North Carolina, ECSU must be authorized to offer that course or program in your state or territory.

Authorization is determined through NC-SARA participation or, where required, through state-specific approval processes.

Enrolled in a field placement or other "on-the-ground" activity outside of North Carolina

If you are participating in a field placement, internship, practicum, or other in-person learning activity outside North Carolina:

- ECSU must be authorized in that state
- Additional approvals may be required depending on the location

Please refer to the map of authorized states and territories available at <https://nc-sara.org/directory/>

Under NC-SARA guidelines, no more than 10 students from a single program may be placed simultaneously at one site in another SARA state.

If this threshold is exceeded, additional state authorization may be required.

Enrolled in a program leading to professional licensure

Furthermore, if you are located outside North Carolina and are enrolled in a program that leads to professional licensure, you should know whether ECSU's program meets the professional licensing board requirements in the state or territory where you are located. ECSU academic programs that lead to professional licensure are designed to meet the educational requirements for licensure in the state of North Carolina. Professional licensure requirements vary by state, and ECSU cannot guarantee that a program will meet licensure requirements outside of North Carolina. ECSU provides public and direct disclosures regarding whether programs meet, do not meet, or have not been determined to comply with licensure requirements in other states. Students are strongly encouraged to review the requirements of the appropriate licensing agency in their state prior to enrollment. If a student is located in a state where an ECSU program does not meet or has not determined whether it meets licensure requirements, the University will provide direct written notification prior to enrollment or within 14 calendar days of becoming aware of the student's location. Students may be required to complete an attestation acknowledging this information before continuing in the program.

A current list of SARA member states and territories is available at: <https://nc-sara.org/directory/>

Student Complaint Process

Students enrolled in distance education courses who have a complaint should first attempt to resolve the issue through ECSU's internal grievance procedures.

If the complaint is not resolved at the institutional level, students may file a complaint with the North Carolina SARA Portal Agency.

Complaints related to SARA policies may be escalated in accordance with NC-SARA procedures.

Contact Information

Office of Distance Education
Elizabeth City State University
Email: stateauthorization@ecs.edu