

STATE AUTHORIZATION OVERVIEW

- In 2010, the U.S. Department of Education issued the state authorization regulation, tying an institution's ability to offer federal financial aid in a state to the institution being authorized in the student's state. The rule was later vacated, but states began enforcing their laws and regulations.
- The Office of Distance Education and eLearning hired a program manager for state authorization in April 2015. She and her team worked diligently to obtain approvals for online programs. Within six months, approvals were obtained for all online programs.
- National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA): Ohio State applied to be a participating institution in NC-SARA, receiving approval in September 2015. Membership allows Ohio State to offer education and activities in other SARA participating states; currently 44 states and the District of Columbia participate.
- In 2016, the Department of Education reissued the proposed state authorization regulations, accepting public comments until August 24. A group was formed at Ohio State to craft a public comment letter on behalf of the university, supplying to DoE prior to the August 24th deadline. Comments will be taken into consideration, and final regulations will be released October 31, 2016, with an implementation date of July 1, 2017.

Policy

- Created with the goal of institutional compliance; all activities are regulated in states, not just distance education.
- Mechanism to define the roles and responsibilities of colleges and units conducting business outside of Ohio.
- Ensures we can accurately report to NC-SARA each May, maintaining our membership.
- Gain a better understanding of where our students are.
- Influence rule-making at the Federal level.

Timeline:

- Development began in April 2015. A writing group was formed, including faculty and staff, and the first draft was shared with Senior Management Council in February and April of 2016. The policy was approved by SMC in April to continue development.
- The policy was shared university-wide from May to June, requesting feedback from all faculty and staff.
- A second draft of the policy was shared university-wide, requested additional feedback from faculty and staff in late June/early July.
- Educational sessions, consultations, webinars, and marketing campaigns were conducted about the policy between February 2016 until the present.
- Specific presentations included: Academic Program Advisory Committee; Council on Academic Affairs; Council on Distance Education, Libraries, and Information Technology; Faculty Council; and the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress.
- The policy has been reviewed and endorsed by: Mike Hofherr, Chief Information Officer; Dan Beerck and Brandon Lester, General Counsel in Legal Affairs; Bruce McPheron, Provost; and the University Policy Review Committee.
- Final steps include presenting at Senior Management Council and President's Cabinet for endorsement.
- Policy implementation date of mid-November, 2016.

