

The introduction to each section will show whether it is an existing regulation being amended, an existing regulation being repealed and readopted, or a new regulation.

In amendments to existing regulations:

Underlined and bold language is new.

[UPPERCASE LANGUAGE WITHIN BRACKETS IS DELETED]

A proposed new regulation or replacement of an existing regulation will not be underlined or in bold.

20 AAC 17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 AAC 17.016. Participation in the National Council for State Authorization

Reciprocity Agreements. (a) The commission is the state approving agency for institutions domiciled in the state that wish to operate under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (W-SARA). An institution domiciled in the state must apply for approval to operate under W-SARA, upon a form provided by the commission. To qualify for approval, the institution must

- (1) be domiciled in the state; and
- (2) annually document compliance with the terms of institutional participation set

out in subsection (e) of this section, including

- (A) regional or national accreditation;
- (B) classification by the National Center for Education Statistics as a degree granting institution;
- (C) compliance with requirements published in the National Council

W-SARA Uniform Institutional Application, dated November 22, 2013; and

(D) if a private institution, have an institutional federal financial responsibility rating of 1.5 or higher, or a qualifying exception.

(b) An institution physically located outside the state that delivers distance education to Alaska residents is exempt from authorization and all provisions of 20 AAC.17.015 if approved to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) by the state in which the institution is domiciled.

(c) Complaints from out-of-state students participating in distance education delivered by an in-state institution authorized by the commission and accepted for participation in W-SARA will be handled in accordance with 20 AAC 17.130 – 20 AAC 17.145.

(d) Complaints from out-of-state students participating in distance education delivered by an institution governed by the University of Alaska Board of Regents and accepted for participation in W-SARA will be handled by the University of Alaska and may be appealed to the commission as the state’s W-SARA approving agency.

(e) For purposes of this section, the definitions and terms of participation set forth in the *National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements Policies and Standards*, November 19, 2013 edition, are adopted by reference. (Eff. __/__/__, Register __)

Authority: AS 14.40.120 AS 14.48.020 AS 14.48.070
AS 14.40.170 AS 14.48.030
AS 14.42.030 AS 14.48.050