Michigan State University (MSU) is obligated to comply with other states’ laws regarding the delivery of distance education to residents of other states. For purposes of this summary, distance education includes 100% online programs, online programs that require some on-the-ground experience, certificate programs, and non-credit programs and/or courses that will be delivered to students residing outside the state of Michigan. State laws regarding distance education vary state-by-state, and even program-by-program within a state.

In Fall 2015, MSU began participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), which is an agreement among states that establishes national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. Through SARA, MSU may provide distance education to residents of any other SARA member state without seeking authorization from each SARA member state. Courses and programs incorporating a “supervised field experience” are covered by the provisions of SARA. Under SARA a “supervised field experience” means a student learning experience under the oversight of a supervisor, mentor, faculty member or other qualified professional, located in the host state, who has a direct or indirect reporting responsibility to the institution where the student is enrolled, whether or not credit is granted. Examples include practica, student teaching, or internships.

Approved Through Reciprocity Agreement:
Alabama¹ effective 01/01/2016), Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia (effective 12/01/2015), Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland (effective 01/01/2016), Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi (effective 01/01/2016), Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

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1. High School Diploma
   - In compliance.

2. Ability to Benefit
   - Not applicable to MSU.

3. Misrepresentation
   - In compliance.

4. Incentive Compensation
   - In compliance.

5. State Authorization

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Approved or Exempt:

While the federal state authorization rule pertaining to distance education was vacated on a technicality on July 12, 2011, it is likely to be reinstated. More important, the U.S. Department of Education has rightly indicated that compliance with existing state laws has always been a condition of Title IV eligibility, and the announced regulation simply calls attention to the need for institutions to assure they have legal authority to operate in all the states where they are providing instruction.

Alabama - State authorization to provide a program related to the preparation of teachers or other P-12 school/system personnel does not indicate eligibility for an Alabama certificate. Applicants for an Alabama certificate based on reciprocity must meet Alabama’s test requirements and submit a valid, renewable professional educator certificate/license issued by another state at the degree level, grade level, and in the teaching field or area of instructional support for which an Alabama certificate is sought and for which Alabama issues a certificate. Applicants for Alabama certification in an area of administration must also document at least three years of full-time employment as an administrator in a P-12 school system(s). [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu)

6. Gainful Employment  
   In compliance.

7. Definition of a Credit Hour  
   In compliance.

8. Agreements Between Institutions  
   Not applicable to MSU.

9. Verification  
   In compliance.

10. Satisfactory Academic Progress  
    In compliance.

11. Enrollment Status & Repeat Coursework  
    In compliance.

12. Return of Funds, Term-Based Modules  
    In compliance.

13. Return of Funds, Taking Attendance  
    In compliance.

14. Timely Disbursements  
    In compliance.