State Authorization
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
**Background**

- In the Fall of 2010, the USDOE announced the **Program Integrity Rules**.

- One of the rules - **Rule 5 - “State Authorization”** - required all institutions of higher education participating in Title IV federal student financial aid programs to be able to document compliance with state law in all states where they offer distance or correspondence education.

- On July 12 2013, **Rule 5** was vacated on a technicality.
Institutional Responsibility

Regardless of whether Rule 5 was reinstated or not

Educational institutions became immediately aware of the requirement and necessity to comply with established state statutes, rules, and regulations - long on the books - related to offering postsecondary education to students who reside in other states.
The State Authorization Process

The state authorization approval process is an individualized, state-by-state process, dealing with:

- A multitude of varying statutes, rules and regulations;
- Differing applications formats and processes;
- No, minimal, or extensive fees; and
- Specialized data reporting requirements.
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Key Factors in Achieving State Authorization

**Physical Presence**

The definition of “physical presence” varies from state-to-state, as well as program-by-program, and is generally the major contributing factor utilized in determining MSU’s approach to state authorization in a given state.
Physical Presence “Triggers”

In a multitude of state, *physical presence* is “triggered” by an MSU program that includes an internship, externship, practicum, field experience, away program, etc., that is arranged by the institution and takes place in another state.
Another challenge in achieving state authorization are the aspects involving professional licensure (e.g. nursing, teaching, psychology, social work).

For example, if a particular program does not fit into a state’s licensing rules and regulations, or align with the licensing progression track, individual programs may be excluded from the state authorization approval process in a particular state.
State Authorization Web Page

http://www.esp.msu.edu/stateauth.asp

- **MSU State Authorization**
  Online Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs and Field-Based Activities and Courses

- **MSU State Authorization Progress Report**
  State-By-State Summary
  Color-coded map
Life-Long Education Courses

The purpose of the Lifelong Education status is to permit and facilitate access to MSU courses (on-campus, off-campus, or workshop) for persons not wishing to pursue an undergraduate or graduate MSU degree.

However, if a student enrolls in a course as a life-long student with the intention of transferring the credits to a degree-granting program, the same rules would apply as if they were enrolled in a traditional online distance education course.
Colleges and units will be prompted by University Curriculum and Catalog every semester and summer session to review the Online and Off-campus Programs site to ensure their online programs have the correct program description, delivery method, and other pertinent information listed. 
http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/OnlinePrograms.asp

**How To Proceed:**
Per usual practice, all curricular requests are sent via the RO Online Forms menu at:

https://www.reg.msu.edu/Forms/FormsMenu.asp

Required changes in the Online and Off-Campus Programs site can be sent directly to:

University Curriculum and Catalog

Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator,
Office of the Registrar
Office: 355-8420 | Email: jlspeas@msu.edu

Academic Program Cycle:
https://www.reg.msu.edu/ucc/programcycle.asp
State Authorization Will Be An Ongoing Process

- Processing renewal applications.
- Registering new MSU online programs.
- Maintaining security bonds.
- Required reporting.
- Staying abreast of changing federal and state rules and regulations (states are stepping up to the challenge, as well as initiating new legislation).
State Authorization Questions

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