

# State Authorization for Online Education

All U.S. states require postsecondary institutions to be legally authorized to offer educational instruction within their borders. East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) is committed to providing accessible online education programs and courses to students across all states and territories.

To support this initiative, EMCC participates in the [\*\*State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)\*\*](#)—a collaborative agreement among member states, districts, and territories. SARA establishes consistent national standards for interstate online education, making it easier for students to enroll in courses offered by institutions outside their home state. This agreement enhances flexibility and expands educational opportunities for students nationwide.

EMCC is authorized to offer distance education programs and courses to students in all states through an agreement with the [\*\*Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation \(MCCA\)\*\*](#). Committed to fostering a dynamic learning environment, EMCC ensures student success by delivering high-quality instruction, implementing effective policies, and providing comprehensive student support services.

To extend this commitment to out-of-state students, EMCC participates in the [\*\*State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)\*\*](#) through its membership in the regional compact [\*\*Southern Region Education Board \(SREB\)\*\*](#). SARA is a collaborative agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes consistent national standards for interstate postsecondary distance education. This agreement simplifies the process for institutions to offer online education across state lines by providing a framework for reciprocity among participating states.

Students and prospective students of EMCC who reside outside of Mississippi while enrolled in online programs or courses should be aware that many states require authorization for out-of-state institutions to offer online education to their residents. These authorization processes are designed to uphold the quality and integrity of postsecondary education, protect the value of academic degrees, and enhance consumer safeguards for students.

EMCC participates in the [State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)](#), allowing students from SARA-approved states to enroll in EMCC's online program. Through this agreement, students can take online courses from institutions located in other participating states.

If you reside in a state that is not a member of NC-SARA, we encourage you to contact [elarning@eastms.edu](mailto:elarning@eastms.edu) for the latest information on state authorization and available courses. While most states have joined SARA, not all have. Please visit NC-SARA's official website for a current list of NC-SARA member states.

## **Relocating During the Course of a Program**

Licensing and authorization requirements differ by state, and relocating to another state while enrolled in a program may affect students' ability to continue their studies. Moving may impact:

- **Program eligibility** in the new state
- **Licensure requirements** that vary by location
- **Financial aid eligibility** for the chosen program

Students planning to relocate during their program should contact the licensure board in their new state to verify authorization and licensure requirements before making any decisions.

## Accreditation

East Mississippi Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. East Mississippi Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of East Mississippi Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404)679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org))

## Professional Licensure

Many professions and occupations require licensure or certification, with specific requirements varying by state. EMCC is committed to providing students with the most accurate and up-to-date information available; however, we cannot guarantee that any particular program meets licensure or certification requirements outside of the state of Mississippi.

- If you are considering an EMCC program that leads to professional licensure or certification and reside outside of Mississippi, we strongly encourage you to:
- Review our [list](#) of nationally certified programs to determine if your desired program holds national accreditation.

Contact the appropriate licensing board in your state to confirm whether the program meets your state's licensure requirement before enrolling at EMCC.

It is important to note that NC-SARA approval does not extend to programs leading to professional licensure. While EMCC makes every effort to be informed of state regulations, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to verify licensure requirements with their home state's licensing board.

# Online Education Complaint Procedure

## ***For EMCC's Out-of-State Students***

EMCC is committed to resolving student grievances, complaints, and concerns fairly, promptly, and amicably. The College provides established procedures for students to address and resolve issues within the institution. Details regarding the student complaint process can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

For out-of-state students, if a complaint or grievance remains unresolved after following the College's internal procedures, students may file an out-of-state student grievance in accordance with EMCC's Student Grievance Policy.

As a participant in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), EMCC acknowledges the oversight of the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation (MCCA) in resolving complaints related to distance education for students enrolled under NC-SARA.

If you have a complaint regarding online education at EMCC concerning allegations of dishonesty, etc., including the provision of false or misleading information, you will need to contact the eLearning Department at [elearning@eastms.edu](mailto:elearning@eastms.edu). Students residing in SARA member states who wish to escalate a complaint may submit it to the [Mississippi SARA portal agent](#). Complaint forms and additional information are available on the MCCA website.

For further assistance, students may contact [the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation \(MCCA\)](#):

 **Address:** 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

 **Phone:** (601) 432-6372

You can also further your complaint with the appropriate agency in the state where you reside. [Please click here to view a listing of states and](#)

[institutions currently participating in SARA](#). More information regarding the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) can be found [here](#).

### ***State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) – Student Complaint Process***

East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) participates in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

In accordance with SARA policy, students enrolled in distance education courses who reside outside the State of Mississippi and who wish to file a complaint should first follow EMCC's internal institutional complaint procedures.

If a complaint cannot be resolved at the institutional level, students may appeal the decision to the Mississippi SARA State Portal Entity.

For additional information regarding the SARA student complaint process, including eligibility and procedures, please visit the NC-SARA Student Complaints webpage: <https://nc-sara.org/sara-student-complaints-0/>.

## **Additional Information**

The following resources provide additional information related to programs offered by East Mississippi Community College.

- Accreditation agency: [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACSCOC\)](#)
- [Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation](#)
- [EMCC eLearning](#)
- [EMCC Contact Us](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please contact [elearning@eastms.edu](mailto:elearning@eastms.edu).