



State Authorization

The US Department of Education requires that any institution offering distance education programs to students outside of its home state must acquire authorization from the states in which students reside.

Regulations vary from state to state.

Samford University has been approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to participate in the National Council for State Authorization and Reciprocity Agreements (NCSARA). NC-SARA is a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. As a participating institution, Samford University may offer online programming to students in other SARA member states without seeking authorization in that state. Currently, Samford can admit online students from 49 member states (this excludes California) and most U.S. Territories, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, as Samford qualifies for exempt status in California, students can be admitted from that state as well.

The list below summarizes Samford's authorization status from each state unless restrictions due to licensure or other issues have been noted. Samford University is working diligently to seek authorization in every state.

Authorized for Online Degree and Certificate Programs	Online Degree and Certificate Programs w/On-Ground or Field Experiences	Authorized for Both Online Degree and Certification Programs, in addition to, On-Ground or Field Experiences
Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Alaska	Alaska	Alaska
Arizona	Arizona	Arizona
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
California	California	California
Colorado	Colorado	Colorado
Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut
District of Columbia	District of Columbia	District of Columbia
Florida	Florida	Florida
Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
Idaho	Idaho	Idaho
Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
Indiana	Indiana	Indiana
Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
Kansas	Kansas	Kansas
Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana

Maine	Maine	Maine
Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts
Authorized Online Degree and Certificate Programs	Online Degree and Certificate Programs w/*On-Ground or Field Experiences	Authorized for Both Online Degree and Certification Programs, in addition to, On-Ground or Field Experiences
Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi
Missouri	Missouri	Missouri
Montana	Montana	Montana
Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
Nevada	Nevada	Nevada
New Hampshire	New Hampshire	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey
New Mexico	New Mexico	New Mexico
New York	****	Only 100% online programs may be offered
North Dakota	North Dakota	North Dakota
Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Oregon	Oregon	Oregon
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Rhode Island	Rhode Island
South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina
South Dakota	South Dakota	South Dakota
Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Texas	Texas	Texas
Utah	Utah	Utah
Vermont	Vermont	Vermont
Virginia	Virginia	Virginia

Washington	Washington	Washington
West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia
Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Wyoming	Wyoming	Wyoming

In addition to state authorization, it is important to note that each state may have different professional licensure and certification requirements related to a specific occupation or profession. While the state-specific disclosures provided by Samford do not provide any guarantee that a particular state licensure or certification entity will approve or deny an application, Samford University provides students with important information to indicate if its academic programs meet the educational prerequisites for professional licensure or certification outside the state of Alabama. Samford cannot provide verification of an individual's ability to meet licensure or certification requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

It is also important to note that in addition to the educational prerequisites, other licensure requirements may include professional examinations, background checks, years of work experience, fingerprinting requirements, etc. Students who are considering an academic program that may allow them to pursue professional licensure or certification in a state outside of Alabama are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate licensing agency to seek information and additional guidance before beginning a program. For more information, click [here](#) and review "licensure and certification disclosures."