

State Authorization for Online Education



East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) provides distance education programs courses to students in all states under the authority of an agreement with the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation ([MCCA](#)). East Mississippi Community College strives to provide a dynamic learning environment to ensure the achievement of students' goals by administering instruction, policies, and student support services. To continue this dynamic learning environment for out-of-state students, EMCC through its membership in the regional compact ([Southern Region Education Board – SREB](#)), has joined the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement ([SARA](#)). SARA is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establish comparable national standards for interstate offering postsecondary distance education. SARA provides a reciprocity agreement that allows each member state the right to provide online education to residents of other member states with additional authorization required. All states are not currently members of SARA.

East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) students and prospective students who will not reside in Mississippi while enrolled in online programs or courses should be aware that many states mandate an authorization process for out-of-state institutions delivering online programs to its residents. States use such processes to safeguard postsecondary education, ensure the integrity of academic degrees, and ensure more excellent consumer protection for their students.

EMCC's participation in NC-SARA allows students from NC-SARA approved states to enroll in EMCC's online programs. Students can take online courses from institutions based in another state through this program. We encourage you to contact elarning@eastms.edu if the state you reside in is not listed as a NC-SARA state, as well as other updated information about the state and the courses that may be available to you.

Colleges or Universities in a SARA state only need their home state authorization to offer online education to any other SARA member state. Not every state has joined SARA, but most have. A current list of member states can be found [here](#).

Accreditation

East Mississippi Community College is accredited by SACSCOC to award certificates and associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Mississippi Community College. The Commission is only to be contacted if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard. All normal inquires about the institution, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, and other colleges related information should be addressed directly to the College and not to the office of the Commission on Colleges.

East Mississippi Community College is accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Education and by the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation and is a member of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, Southern Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Professional Licensure

State and other entities have established standards for professions or occupations regarding regulations. Licensure requirement varies from state to state and depends on each profession. East Mississippi strives to connect you with the best information possible, we cannot confirm whether a particular program meets requirements for professional licensure and/or certification outside of the State of Mississippi. If you have concerns about a program at EMCC that leads to licensure of certification and you do not live in Mississippi, please contact the individual [here](#), under tab, Programs Receiving National Certification and the appropriate licensing board in your state that corresponds to your desired program before enrollment to determine whether the program will meet licensure requirement.

Online Education Complaint Procedure

East Mississippi Community College desires to resolve student grievances, complaints and concerns in an expeditious, fair and amicable manner. The College offers procedures for students to resolve complaints and grievances with the College. A copy of the student complaint procedure is located in the [Student Handbook](#). Out-of-state students who feel their complaint or grievance has not been resolved at the institutional level may file an out-of-state student grievance by following the student grievance policy. The College recognizes and accepts MCCA oversight in resolving complaints from students enrolled in distance education under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). Out-of-state students residing in NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) states may submit complaints to the [MS SARA portal agent](#). To file a complaint, a student can complete the complaint form available on the website. MCCA is located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211, and can be reached by telephone (601) 432-6372.