

NC-SARA

As of January 2021, more than 2,200 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). NC-SARA is a nonprofit organization that helps expand students' access to educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs. NC-SARA is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate postsecondary distance education.

Laurel Business Institute and **Laurel Technical Institute-Meadville** participate in NC-SARA. Participating schools must adhere to stringent requirements set and imposed by states and NC-SARA, including maintaining their accreditation and remaining in good financial standing.

NC-SARA Student Consumer Protections

- All SARA institutions must be accredited.
- SARA institutions must have U.S. oversight.
- SARA institutions must demonstrate healthy finances.
- SARA institutions are accountable for third-party providers.
- SARA institutions must adhere to high standards.
- SARA institutions must uphold stringent reporting and accountability requirements.
- SARA institutions are required to have transparency around professional licensure.
- SARA institutions must find ways to meet obligations to students.
- Student complaints are taken seriously.
- Compliance is non-negotiable.

You can find out more about NC-Sara by visiting their website at: <u>https://www.nc-sara.org/</u>

NC-SARA - Student Complaint System

You are encouraged to review the school catalog section **Grievance Procedure** for instructions on how to file a complaint.

NC-SARA consumer protection provisions require the institution's home state, through its SARA State Portal Entity, to investigate and resolve allegations of dishonest or fraudulent activity by the state's SARA-participating institutions, including the provision of false or misleading information.

Pennsylvania

State Portal Entity Contact

Gina Wetten Higher Education Associate II 717.265.7723 giwetten@pa.gov State SARA Website

Pennsylvania Division of Higher Education, Access, and Equity 333 Market St Harrisburg, PA 17126

After you have exhausted Laurel's **Grievance Procedure** found in the school catalog, and if your complaint has not been resolved, you may file a complaint through Pennsylvania's State Portal Entity Contact using this form: <u>Private Licensed Schools Complaint Form</u>.

Additional information from the NC- SARA complaint website:

https://nc-sara.org/sites/default/files/files/2021-03/StudentComplaintProcess_FINAL.2.19.21_0.pdf