Day 34: **Did you know that CMU is a member of NC-SARA?**

In addition to its regional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and its various accreditations/approvals at the program level, Colorado Mesa University also is a member institution of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA). Beginning in 2014, the Council was created and implemented a framework whereby participating states agree to national standards for the interstate delivery of postsecondary distance education. SARA requires a state (i.e., the Colorado Commission on Higher Education) to approve in-state institutions based upon institutional accreditation and financial stability. Through the agreement, primary oversight responsibilities shift from the "host" state in which the distance education is being offered to the "home" state of the institution delivering the instruction. Reciprocity at the state-level makes for a more uniform set of standards and practices, eliminates the need for each institution to separately pursue approvals in each state where it enrolls students, and facilitates a more efficient and effective process for dealing with variations in quality and resolving student complaints that might arise.

As a member institution, CMU has agreed to follow the [Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education Programs](http://nc-sara.org/files/docs/C-RAC%20Guidelines.pdf) for best practices in distance delivery. The guidelines were adopted by the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC), the umbrella group comprised of the seven regional higher education accrediting agencies.

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