



State Updates

October 13, 2021

Thank you for your updates!

- 32 responses covering 26 states (including DC)
- Full responses will be posted on the NASASPS website for reference later.
- The responses give a summary of the number and type of institutions each state regulatory agency oversees.
- Please refer to the update for complete information on updates and pandemic-related permanent changes.



Topics Overview

- Rule & Statutory Updates
- Telework/WFH/Hybrid Working Arrangements
- Virtual Site Visits
- Virtual Meetings
- Hybrid/Online/Flex Formats
- Digitization/Accessibility
- Pandemic/Disaster Plan Requirements



Rule and Statutory Updates

- 13 states have reported rule amendments, additions, revised fees, and new strategic plans or new areas of emphasis.
- Highlights:
 - TX: Limits on new professional degrees based on market need.
 - CO: Accepting accreditation through CHEA.
 - CT: Building a credential registry.
 - TN: Balancing workload reduction with enabling legislation.
 - GA: Legislator request to expand exempt institutions and remove financial assessments or standards during application; but also improved initial applicant process to ensure higher quality submissions.
 - KS and IA: A lot of changes – any to highlight?
- Any other changes to highlight?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Telework/WFH/Hybrid Working Arrangements

- Some change in work situations reported by HI, TX, IL, CO, WA, GA
- There are probably many more states who have changed policies
- Questions:
 - If hybrid, how is your in-office time determined? self, set schedule, on-demand, etc.
 - How do you publicize contact info? [forward to personal computer/phone, notify of alternate contact info, etc.]
 - Any office equipment or arrangements provided by agency?
 - Reason given for going to alternative working arrangements?
- Any other working arrangements you want to talk about?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Virtual Site Visits

- Some form of virtual site visits to institutions reported by IL, PA, OH, MO, GA, KS
- And again, there are probably many more states who have utilized virtual site visits and may continue to do so.
- GA is the winner in virtual interactions – site visits, review of student/faculty files; meetings, training.
- Questions:
 - Has any state completely eliminated on-site visits to institutions?
 - What are the major benefits of virtual site visits?
 - What are the major issues with virtual site visits?
 - Have you noticed improved communication because both agency staff and institutions are comfortable doing video calls now?
- Any other questions or observations about virtual site visits?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Virtual Meetings

- Some form of virtual meetings reported by MS, MO, GA
- Virtual meetings might not have been as easy to do for some states.
- Questions:
 - Is this a permanent or temporary change?
 - Any open meeting issues? Statutory restrictions?
 - Have access to virtual meetings been limited to certain types of meetings?
 - Are there examples of hybrid meetings? – mix of virtual and in-person; some participants in-person and some virtual
 - Any technology challenges or best practices?
- Any other questions or observations about virtual meetings?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Hybrid/Online/Flex Formats

- Nearly every response included the changing formats for instruction.
- Changes in review of the new formats and increase in inquiries to start new online programs.
- Clearly, postsecondary education is moving toward some form of flexible instruction.
- Some highlights:
 - MN: Students have adjusted to new normal – uncertainty of whether class will be in-person or virtual; less complaints.
 - IL: Out-of-state institutions moving out and only delivering online.
 - OR: Changed standard to allow state resident to return home for remote learning in an emergency.
- Questions:
 - Do you have any institutions that have not been able to adjust to online or hybrid learning formats? How have they fared?
 - Are institutions able to flex to change format from day-to-day? Any state requirements to do so?
 - Did you need rule or statutory changes to allow residents to “come home” for remote learning?
 - What steps have you taken to ensure online learning platforms are appropriate?
- Any other best practices to share about instructional methods?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Digitization/Accessibility

- States that reported the opportunity to digitize or make records more accessible include MN, MS, PA, TN
- The pandemic may have caused problems, but we can see that it also forced upgrades that might have taken years to implement or be approved.
- Questions:
 - Did you have plans in place before the pandemic that were implemented faster?
 - Biggest roadblocks in digitizing or making process more transparent?
 - How many states accept electronic payments? What are the accepted formats? [Credit card; state system; etc.]
 - Do institutions have access to their records? Any limits?
 - Any state requiring paper submissions?
 - Concerns about viruses, identity theft, ransomware, other cybercrimes?
- Any other updates on electronic records and forms?

Pandemic- Related Permanent Changes

Pandemic/Disaster Plan Requirements

- Some changes are unique and directly related to the pandemic.
- Some highlights:
 - RI: Includes a catastrophic events plan as part of the proprietary school approval or renewal.
 - OR: Temporary closure rule allows an institution to temporarily close but retain its authorization during an emergency.
 - WA: State requires mandatory vaccines for agency staff, school administrators, faculty, and some students in certain programs.
 - MS: Reports some school closures – may or may not be related.
- Questions:
 - Have you added requirements to plan for emergencies?
 - Can your institutions temporarily close without penalty or renewed application?
 - Vaccines – yea or nay?
 - What about those closures – was it a pandemic of closures or have we weathered this without too many institutions shutting their doors?
- Any changes due only to the pandemic?

Thank you for sharing updates!

- If we didn't get to everything or you have additional questions, please make sure you log on tomorrow for the virtual lunch.
- The virtual lunch is a time for free discussion.
- We can use this time to continue our state updates or ask about something of particular interest.
- I suggest you put your questions or comments in the chat box during our virtual lunch discussion.