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?
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?
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?
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?
Hybrid/Online/Flex Formats

• Nearly every response included the changing formats for instruction.
• Changes in review of the new formats and increase in inquires 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?
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/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.