Where in the U.S. are students able to participate in BU courses or programs?

Does your program lead to professional licensure or certification (PLC)? Licensure or certification may be obtained:
- after successful completion of the program
- through a board or entity other than BU
- through a board exam (not offered by BU)
- after further education/training not necessarily offered by BU
- after a number of years of professional experience

Or licensure/certification is optional, not required to work in the field.

Your program falls under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). Students from other SARA states may enroll in online courses and programs. Students may also participate in supervised field experiences in other SARA states, limited to ten students per program, site, and semester. Such activities in non-SARA states (currently California and Massachusetts) must be reviewed on a state-by-state basis. Please contact BU’s Institutional Compliance Program Coordinator (ICPC) in these cases.

Your program falls under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) but additional approval may be needed from state boards/entities to offer online PLC programs to students from other states or for students to participate in supervised field experiences in other SARA states. (Please see the “supervised field experience” definition in the box to the right.)

Does the PLC program offer online courses to students in other states or do students from the program have opportunities to participate in supervised field experiences in states other than Pennsylvania?

If all of your PLC program activities are done in-state, meaning students are physically participating in classes (online or face-to-face) within Pennsylvania borders, and supervised field experiences are only done in Pennsylvania, then you do not need additional approval for students to participate in the program.

Please contact BU’s Institutional Compliance Program Coordinator who will confirm with appropriate state regulators whether an online PLC program may be delivered to other states’ residents or if BU students of PLC programs may participate in supervised field experiences in states other than PA. Prospective students, prior to enrollment, and current students must receive a disclosure statement coordinated by the ICPC alerting to the fact that this PLC program may or may not qualify them for licensure or certification in their state of residence or where they intend to practice.

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Supervised field experience, for SARA purposes, means a student learning experience comprised primarily of the practical application of previously studied theories and skills, under the oversight of a supervisor, mentor, faculty member or other qualified professional located in the host state, who has direct or indirect reporting responsibility to the institution where the student is enrolled whether or not credit is granted. The supervised field experience is part of a program of study offered by the enrolling SARA institution. Examples include practica, student teaching, internships/externships, or clinical experiences.

Independent off-campus study by individual students not engaged in supervised field experience is exempt from requirements of SARA and does not constitute a physical presence of a postsecondary institution in a SARA member state.

Please contact BU’s Institutional Compliance Program Coordinator (ICPC) if you have any questions or concerns about your program and State Authorization:
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