

## **FAQ's about State Authorization & Limitations on Access to States**

### **Q: Why do states need to authorize Gallaudet?**

States have long had the authority to regulate institutions offering education within the state's boundaries, regardless of the modality (face-to-face, distance) being used. States' regulations vary from having no regulation to having very strict requirements.

There is currently pressure on states from the federal government to be stricter in enforcing their requirements

### **Q: When do we need to get authorization from a state?**

We need to become authorized by a state if we have a physical presence in the state. The tricky part is that states define physical presence differently. Common types of physical presence include internships, faculty employed by Gallaudet while living in the state, buildings, face-to-face courses offered in the state, and distance education programs or courses. But some states don't require authorization to offer distance education courses, but they do for internships.

### **Q: What do the states consider to be Distance Education (DE) programs?**

DE programs include online degrees, online certificate programs, and hybrid degrees and certificate programs, in which 50% or more of the instruction is provided on-line. For up-to-date information on all of the DE/On-line programs GU offers see the On-line programs website at [http://www.gallaudet.edu/online\\_programs.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/online_programs.html)

### **Q: I've heard that some universities are choosing selected states for state authorization, and avoiding the ones that are the most demanding in their requirements. For how many states will Gallaudet seek state authorization (or exemption)?**

Because Gallaudet University is a federally chartered university, and is expected to serve all students in the U.S., we are pursuing state authorization in all states.

### **Q: Why are we being limited by some states in enrolling students in DE programs or in placing students in internships in their states?**

Sometimes, when we begin the application process, the state formally requires that we place on hold all further enrollments in DE programs (e.g., WI) plus internships such as with NM (with the exception of 6 programs) until the application process is completed.

**Q: How will the State Authorization (SA) process affect me?**

The SA process affects you in two ways:

- 1) To achieve state authorization, OAQ, is required to provide documentation that we are meeting each state's standards. Sometimes we will ask for information from you. Sometimes we will ask you to work with us to meet a state standard. For example, MD requires a separate refund policy for MD DE students, and OAQ worked with Finance to establish and publicize that policy. Some states require that academic program SLO's be posted on our website. If we ask you for assistance please remember that this is an urgent need. For all states for which we do not have authorization we are at risk (see the above question);
  
- 2) If you receive an alert saying that DE students cannot be enrolled in a state or interns cannot be placed in a state, please follow the rule set forth in that Alert. We have received this mandate directly from a state and non-compliance puts Gallaudet at serious risk, not only with the state, but with MSCHE.

**If you have further questions contact** Helen Thumann, Director Accreditation, Certification, and Licensure