

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – Annual Notification

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.
A student should submit to the registrar, Provost, head of the academic department, or another appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.
A student who wishes to ask the University to amend a record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants to be changed, and specify why it should be changed.
If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
The University discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including Campus Police and Wellness Center staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; scholarship committees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the University.
The University may disclose education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for parents who have submitted evidence that they declared the student as a dependant on their most recent Federal Income Tax form. Upon verification of tax-dependent status by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), it is the University's policy to release educational information to the parent(s) or guardian(s) upon request.
Directory Information may be released without the student's consent and includes the following: name, address, telephone number, email address, photograph, enrollment status (e.g. full-time, part-time, etc.), dates of attendance, class, major/minor, awards, honors, degrees earned and dates conferred, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams. Students have the right to withhold the release of Directory Information. To do so, a student must complete a Directory Information Hold Form, available from the Registrar's Office.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520