



FERPA – NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (FERPA), is a federal law that protects student information and affords eligible students the following rights with respect to their education records:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the institution receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of education records the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.
3. The right to provide written consent before the institution discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older who attends a postsecondary institution. Please find a more detailed discussion of each of these rights and guidance regarding the manner in which they may be exercised below.

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the institution receives a request for access.

With certain exceptions, an "education record" is defined under FERPA as any record (1) from which a student can be personally identified and (2) that is maintained by the institution.

A student wishing to inspect his or her education records should submit to the Registrar a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school 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 Registrar, the Registrar will advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of education records the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

To question the accuracy of education records, students should first informally confer with the custodian or originator of the record at issue. A student who then wishes to ask the school to amend a record should write the official responsible for the record, clearly identifying the part of the record that he or she believes should be amended and the basis for why it should be amended.

If the school decides not to amend the record, it will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing with school officials regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Note: The preceding procedure shall not be available to challenge the validity of a grade or score given by an instructor or any other decision by an instructor or official, but only whether the recording of such grade or decision is accurate or complete.



3. The right to provide written consent before the institution discloses PII from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Students may consent to their school disclosing PII from the student's education record to a third party. This consent must be made to the Registrar, in writing, signed and dated by the student, and must (1) specify the records to be disclosed, (2) state the purpose of the disclosure, (3) and identify the party to whom the disclosure is to be made. This release requirement is applicable to disclosures to parents or other family members who inquire about a student's education record.

There are instances in which a school is permitted to disclose a student's education records without a student's prior written consent. In accordance and subject to all FERPA requirements, our school may disclose education records without a student's prior written consent as follows:

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the school whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests.
- To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities.
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- Information the school has designated as "directory information."
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding.
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her.
- To parents of a student regarding the student's violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21.

As stated above, FERPA permits institutions, within established guidelines, to disclose "directory information" without a student's prior written consent. This provision enables institutions to provide beneficial services to students such as verifying enrollment for insurance purposes, verifying diplomas earned for employment purposes, providing basic contact information so that students may contact each other, and so on. Our school has identified the following items as directory information:

- Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Enrollment status
- Dates of attendance and graduation
- Field of study
- Diploma/Degree received



Students may request that directory information not be released. To request restriction of directory information, a request must be made through Broadleaf. Please contact the campus Registrar, who will assist with this process.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Students wishing to file complaints relating to FERPA matters may submit such complaints to the following office of the U.S. Department of Education that administers FERPA: Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605
Phone: 202-260-3887

In addition, our school encourages students to file any such complaints or concerns with our school pursuant to the Student Complaint/Grievance Procedure located in our School Catalog.

Students with questions regarding their rights pursuant to FERPA, or desiring additional guidance concerning the appropriate manner in which to exercise such rights at their school, can contact the Executive Director/Campus President.