

# FERPA FACTS

## WHAT IS FERPA?

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was passed in 1974 by Congress to require educational institutions to:

- Provide students access to their educational records
- Allow students to correct inaccurate or misleading information in these records
- Limit the release of information to third parties

## What Is Directory Information?

The University may disclose any of these “directory information” items without prior written consent, unless the student has submitted a written request to the Registrar’s office not to release directory information pertaining to them.

Directory information includes:

Address	Major field of study
Anticipated date of Graduation	Participation in school activities/athletics
Date and place of birth	Photograph
Dates of attendance	Previous Institution attended
Degree and awards	Student name
Email-addresses	Telephone numbers
Enrollment status (full-time or part-time)	

## Transfer of Educational Records:

FERPA permits school officials to disclose any and all educational records, including disciplinary records, to another institution at which the student seeks or intends to enroll. While student consent is not required for transferring education records, the institution’s annual FERPA notification should indicate that such disclosures are made. In the absence of information about disclosures in the annual FERPA notification, school officials make a reasonable attempt to notify the student about the disclosure, unless the student initiates the disclosure. Additionally, upon request, the institution must provide a copy of the information disclosed and an opportunity for hearing.

See 34CFR§99.31(a)(2) and §99.34(a).

## Does FERPA give me the right to see education records of my son or daughter who is in college?

When a student turns 18 years of old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to you as a parent under FERPA transfer to the student. However, FERPA provides ways in which a school may, but not required to, share information from an eligible student’s education records with parents, without consent.

For example:

- Schools may disclose education records to parents if the student is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.
- Schools may disclose education records to parents if a health or safety emergency involves their son or daughter.
- Schools may inform parents if the student, if he or she is under 21 years of age, has violated any law or policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- A school official may generally share with a parent information that is based on that official’s personal knowledge or observation of the student.