

# **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)**

## **Institutional Policy**

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the college receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Registrar official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the College to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the College official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her 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 consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); 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 responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

No personally identifiable information from the education records of a student will be disclosed to any third party by any official or employee of the College without written consent of the student. FERPA guidelines state that institutions may release, without written consent, those items specified as public or directory information for currently enrolled students and for former students unless the student completes a written request with the Enrollment Services Office to prohibit the release of directory information. The request must be completed in the Enrollment Services Office by the end of the published official drop/add period or it will be assumed that directory information may be disclosed for the current academic term. A request to prohibit the

release of directory information will remain in effect until the student notifies the Enrollment Services Office in writing. FERPA defines directory information as information contained in an educational record of a student that generally would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, student's name, address, telephone listing, email address, photo, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), enrollment status (full-time, part-time, or number of credit hours), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received (including honors such as Dean's list) and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.