

Facts About FERPA

FERPA is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. It deals with the release of student education records, and affords students certain rights regarding those records.

Institutions may not disclose information in education records without a student's written consent (with few exceptions), including to parents of students.

Directory Information is information which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. DACC designates the following as Directory Information: name; address; date of birth; telephone number; e-mail address; dates of attendance; degrees/certificates conferred; major/field of study; awards received; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

The following is NOT Directory Information: Social Security Number/Student ID Number; race/ethnicity/nationality; gender; grades; grade point average.

Prior Consent is required to disclose information. Consent must specify records to be disclosed; state the purpose of disclosure; and identify the party to whom disclosure may be made. Some exceptions are made.

Institutions may release information from student records without prior consent:

- To school officials with legitimate educational interest
- To schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll
- To Federal, State, and local authorities involving an audit or evaluation of compliance with education programs
- In connection with financial aid
- To organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of educational institutions
- To accrediting organizations
- To parents of a dependent student
- To comply with a judicial order or subpoena
- In a health or safety emergency
- Directory Information

Educational Records = Records that contain information that is directly related to a student and are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting on behalf of the agency or institution. Records include any information or data recorded in any medium (handwriting, print, tapes, film, microfilm, microfiche, or any form of electronic data storage).

Student = Any individual who is or has been in attendance at an institution.

When in Doubt....Call the DACC Registrar at (217) 443-8803!