

# Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)



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Post secondary officials are regularly asked to balance the safety and privacy interests of students. While the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally require institutions to ask for written consent before disclosing a student's personally identifiable information, it also allows colleges and universities to take key steps to maintain campus safety. Understanding the law empowers school officials to act decisively and quickly when issues arise.

## What is FERPA?

FERPA is a federal privacy law that gives students certain protections with regard to their education records, such as grades, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information, and class schedules. Parents have a right to review their child's (student) education records and to request changes under limited circumstances.

To protect the student's privacy, the law generally requires schools to ask for a written consent before disclosing personally identifiable information to individuals other than the student.

## Disclosure to Parents

When a student turns 18 years old or enters a post-secondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to parents under FERPA transfer to the eligible student. However, FERPA also provides ways in which schools may—but are not required to—share information with parents without the student's consent. For example, schools may:

- › Disclose education records to parents if the student is a dependent for income tax purposes.
- › Disclose education records to parents if a health or safety emergency involves their son or daughter.
- › Inform parents if the student is under age 21 and has violated any law or its policy concerning the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- › Generally share with a parent information that is based on a school official's personal knowledge or observation of the student.

## Clarkson College Academic Practices

At Clarkson College, faculty members and other school officials will not disclose information on grades or academic issues to parents unless the student has authorized a release of FERPA information MyCC. Faculty members may verify that FERPA release information is on file with the Registrar's office.



**Mission:**

Preparing students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services.

## Student Services Practices: Parent Rights

Parents have a right to review their child's (student) education records and to request changes under limited circumstances as long as the student has signed an authorization to release FERPA Information.

To protect the student's privacy, schools are generally prohibited from disclosing personally identifiable information about students without their written consent as identified above. Exceptions to this rule include the following disclosures:

- › Made to school officials with legitimate educational interests;
- › Made to another school at which the student intends to enroll;
- › Made to state or local education authorities for auditing or evaluating federal or state-supported education programs, or enforcing federal laws that relate to those programs; and
- › Including information the school has designated as "directory information."

## Questions

Questions may be directed to the Clarkson College Registrar's office at 402.552.3033 or registrar@clarksoncollege.edu.