



Confidentiality and Retention of Student Records

Student records are maintained with integrity and discretion and in keeping with the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A student's academic record shall be available for review by the student, to the extent specified by law, during regular working hours of the registrar's office. A student's academic record is held in confidence by the seminary as permitted or required by law and is not released to persons (including parents or spouses), other than appropriate academic offices of the seminary, without authority of the student. All requests for academic transcripts should be in writing or submitted online through our approved vendor. Records in other offices are held in confidence and can be discussed with students in the context of procedures operating within each office.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA affords students with certain rights in 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 seminary receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the registration services office a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The director of registration services 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 seminary official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education record that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the seminary to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the seminary 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 seminary decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the seminary will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing. 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 seminary in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position; a person or company with whom the seminary has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, National Student Loan Clearinghouse, Institutional Assessment Consultant, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; 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.

A second exception is for disciplinary actions taken against a student, those actions concerning "imposed sanctions by an educational agency or institution with respect to an infraction or violation of the internal rules of conduct (e.g. Special Needs) applicable to students of the agency or institution," may be shared with institutions who have legitimate educational interest.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the seminary to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

A FERPA complaint form is available online at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>. It may be completed and submitted electronically or physically. Additional information on the website.

5. Please note: As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education's FERPA regulations expand the circumstances under which your education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records — including your Social Security Number, grades, or other private information — may be accessed without your consent. First, the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities ("Federal and State Authorities") may allow access to your records and PII without your consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is "principally engaged in the provision of education," such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution. Second, Federal and State Authorities may allow access to your education records and PII without your consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when we object to or do not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive your PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities. In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without your consent PII from your education records, and they may track your participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about you that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.