

FERPA and the Confidentiality Of Student Records

Wheeling Jesuit University's policy regarding the confidentiality of student records is compliant with the Federal "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act" (FERPA). Information about students or former students will not be released without the consent of the student other than in the exceptions stated in the Federal Act. FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. They are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Registrar or Academic Dean, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official 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 official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request shall be addressed.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University 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.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosures 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 University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including Campus Safety and Security personnel); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, collection agency, or the National Student Clearinghouse); a person serving on the Board of Directors; 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. Upon request, the University discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. FERPA also allows the University to disclose directory information without the written consent of the student. Directory information is information contained in an education record of a student which generally would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information includes the student's full name, the fact that the student is or has been enrolled full time/part time status, local and permanent address(es), e-mail address, telephone number(s), date and place of birth, dates of attendance, division (school or college), class, major field(s) of study and/or curriculum, degrees and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photograph, and previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. A currently enrolled student may request any or all directory information not be released by completing and filing with the Registrar's Office the appropriate paperwork to block the release of such directory information. Such filing of this request shall be honored for the remainder of the term in which the request is filed, except that such restriction shall not apply to directory information already published or in the process of being published.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Wheeling Jesuit University to comply with requirements of FERPA.