



Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law passed by Congress in 1974. This law protects a student's rights with respect to his or her education records and is applicable to all living former and current students. FERPA provides a student the right to inspect his or her educational records, seek to amend these records, and protect his or her educational records. FERPA does allow some information, designated as Directory Information, to be released without the consent of the student. Wheeling Jesuit's full policy, in compliance with FERPA, is available in the student catalog.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S) IN REGARDS TO FERPA

Q. Why do parents have limited access to their student's college records?

A. Under FERPA, the access rights that parents and legal guardians had in the elementary and secondary school setting are transferred to students once they attend a post-secondary institution like Wheeling Jesuit OR turn 18 years of age. Parents can be given access to records if the student grants the parent permission to access his/her records by completing the Student Waiver To Release Academic and Financial Records form. This form can also be found on the Registrar's Office webpage, accessible from www.wju.edu.

Q. What records does FERPA cover?

A. The privacy protection FERPA gives to students is very broad. With limited exceptions, the FERPA regulations give privacy protection to the student's "education records." These are defined as records that are "directly related to a student and are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution." Examples of student records covered by FERPA are grade reports, transcripts, etc.

Q. As a parent/guardian, how can I find out my student's grades?

A. The best approach is to ask your son/daughter directly. Parents can only have access to a student's grades if the Student Waiver form has been completed by the student and is on file with the Registrar's Office. For those students who have completed and filed the aforementioned form, the Registrar's Office will send a copy of mid-term and final grades to parents at these times during a semester. Please note, that due to privacy and the difficulty with confirming a person's identity over the telephone, officials at Wheeling Jesuit are unable to discuss student's grades over the telephone unless the student is present for the conversation.