

## **The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Following FERPA guidelines, Jefferson protects the privacy of all personally identifiable and academic record student information, in all types of course delivery including distance and online education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.

They are:

1. 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 University Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University Office of the Registrar 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 University 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 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 to the University 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 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.

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 that 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 law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, 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. The University, at its discretion, may provide directory information in accordance with the provisions of the Act to include:

the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major and minor fields of study, credits for which a student is registered (FT or PT status), academic schedule, campus key, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, date of

graduation, photo, university electronic mail address, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Students wanting directory information withheld should indicate this on the FERPA compliance form by log onto <http://www.eastfalls.jefferson.edu/registrar/ferpa-access.pdf>

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

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC, 20202-4605

Revisions and clarifications will be published as experience with the law and University policy warrant.

To read the full FERPA act please visit: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>