

# FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Grand Canyon University annually informs students of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Questions concerning the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be referred to the Office of Academic Records.

## These rights are as follows:

- The right to inspect and review educational records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect to the Office of Academic Records. The University will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request an amendment of education records that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Office of Academic Records and 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.
- The right to consent to disclosure 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, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement, 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 appeal 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 education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the 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 Ave., SW  
Washington, DC, 20202-5920

Grand Canyon University has designated certain information in the education records as directory information for the purposes of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students are required to complete a Student Information Release Form (SIRF), submitted to the Office of Academic Records, to control release of such information with respect to student records. The SIRF authorizes a 3rd party to receive designated records as requested by the student, however, it does not authorize GCU to have discussions about it, or any portion of the student's education record, or for the authorized person to take action on the account. Designated 3rd parties are expected to abide by University policy; the University reserves the right to discontinue communication if the 3rd party fails to follow policy guidelines or otherwise demonstrate an inability to communicate properly with the University or its representatives. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Office of Academic Records if he or she would like to make any changes to their SIRF information.

Although GCU recognizes some information as directory, GCU's practice is not to release most directory components unless the University determines a need to do so (for example, police request). Some directory information will be released when it comes to athletes, or other student activities, such as theatre productions, regardless of if a student opts out. Students wishing to opt out of ALL directory information disclosure must send their request to the following email address: [directorvoptout@gcu.edu](mailto:directorvoptout@gcu.edu).

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If choosing to opt out students must provide their student ID and reply from their GCU email address.

- Student name
- Address
- Personal email address • Phone number
- Date and place of birth
- Hometown
- Degrees and awards received and dates
- Dates of attendance (current and past)
- Full or part-time enrollment status
- Participation in officially recognized activities or sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recently attended educational institution
- Major field of study
- Academic levels
- Photographs

## Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) provides federal protections for personal health information and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. At the same time, it permits the disclosure of personal health information needed for patient care and other important purposes. The rule specifies a series of administrative, physical and technical safeguards for covered entities to use to assure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic protected health information.

Student Services Departments using health records to make decisions in regard to a student's education program will safeguard these records according to FERPA provisions.