

Family Education Rights And Privacy Acts

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students the following rights with respect to their educational records:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the college receives a request for access.

Students may submit to the College Admissions Office written requests that identify the specific record(s) they wish to inspect. Within 45 days, the College Admissions Office will make arrangements for access and will notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Educational records are those records that are directly related to students and are maintained by the College. Students may not inspect education records pertaining to parents' financial records and certain confidential letters or recommendations.

(2) The right to request an amendment of the student's educational records which the student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

With the exception of grade grievances, which are handled through Administrative Regulation E-55, students may ask the College President, or his/her designee to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights. A student seeking to amend an educational record should write to the College President and clearly identify the part of the record he/she wants changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of his/her privacy rights.

If the College President, or his designee, decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College, in accordance with section 99.21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 76232 of the Education Code, will notify the student of the decision and of his/her 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 and California law authorize disclosures without consent.

If a student authorizes the release of his/her education record to a third party, he/she shall provide a dated written consent to the College Admissions Office authorizing said release with a specific list of the information to be released.

Federal and California law authorize certain disclosures of personally identifiable information without a student's written consent. One such exception is the disclosure of personally identifiable information to school officials with legitimate educational interests. School officials with legitimate educational interests are employees or agents of the Los Angeles Community College District who need to review educational records in order to fulfill their professional responsibilities.

(4) The right to restrict disclosure of personally identifiable information that the College has designated as directory information which may be released without the written consent of the student.

Directory information may be disclosed without a student's consent unless the student has notified the college that he/she does not want all or portions of the directory information released. To do so, the student must submit the appropriate District form to the College Admissions Office requesting that some or all of the categories of directory information not be released without his/her consent. This form must be submitted in accordance with College policy.

Pursuant to Board Rule 5201.10, the Los Angeles Community College District has designated the following student information as directory information:

(a) The student's name, city of residence, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most previous educational agency or institution attended by the student;

(b) Student employee records may be released in order to comply with collective bargaining agreements;

(c) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of students or former students may be released to the foundation for each college for college-related activities at the discretion of the College President, unless the student or former student has informed the College that such information should not be released. The release of this information is conditioned upon the foundation's agreement that such information will be released in accordance with District policy and that information will not be released to third parties;

(d) At the discretion of the College President, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of students from the College may be released to heads of private and/or public institutions of higher education, or their designees, for the purpose of providing information to students regarding transfer opportunities to those institutions, unless the student has indicated that such information should not be released. The release of this information will be conditioned upon the institution's agreement that student privacy rights under federal and state law will be protected and that information will not be released to third parties.

(5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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