

Michigan State University

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

It is the policy of Michigan State University to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (“FERPA”). FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days after the day that Michigan State University (“the University”) receives a request for access.

A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes 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 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 is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the University to amend a record should write to the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student’s 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 provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information (“PII”) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The University may disclose education records without a student’s prior written consent under certain FERPA exceptions. One such exception to the consent rule 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 unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official may also include contractors, consultants, volunteers and other non-employees who perform an

institutional service of function for which the University would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist 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 responsibilities for the University.

Upon request, the University also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The University may also disclose PII from education records without consent to authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the university's State-supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or from the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf.

4. 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 Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

NOTICE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires that the University, with certain exceptions, obtain the student's written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, the University may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the student has advised the University to the contrary in accordance with University procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the University to include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- MSU People Search (on-line directory);
- The Red Cedar Log (annual yearbook);
- Dean's list or other recognition lists;
- Commencement programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for basketball, showing height and weight of team members.

Directory information is information in a student's education record that may be disclosed to outside organizations without a student's prior written consent. While disclosure of directory information about a student is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy under FERPA, the University is not required to disclose directory information to outside parties, including in response to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. The University has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name;
- Student's local address (if listed);
- Student's local phone number (if listed);
- MSU NetID e-mail address (if listed);
- Student's permanent address (if listed);
- Student's permanent telephone number (if listed);
- Current enrollment status or dates of attendance;
- Program level (undergraduate, graduate, professional);
- Class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, etc.);
- Major field of study;
- Current term candidacy for degree and/or teacher certification;
- Employment status as a graduate teaching or research assistant, office address and office phone number;
- Information pertaining to awards and honors achievements;
- Degree(s) earned from Michigan State University and effective date(s);
- Participation in officially recognized University activities and sports, including weight and height of athletic team members;
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended;
- The registration documents of student organizations which contain the names and addresses of the officers and the statement of purpose of the organization. These documents are available in the Student Activities Office, 101 Student Services Building, East Lansing, Michigan.

If the student does not want the University to disclose directory information from the student's education records without prior written consent, the student must notify the Office of the Registrar in writing or online at <https://www.reg.msu.edu/StuForms/DirRestrict/DirRestrict.asp>. The student's request to opt-out of disclosure of directory information becomes a permanent part of the student's education record and continues after the student is no longer in attendance, unless the student instructs the University in writing to remove the request.

Questions about the release or disclosure of a student's education records under FERPA should be directed to the Office of the Registrar at www.reg.msu.edu. A comprehensive summary of the University's procedures on maintenance and access to student education records in compliance with FERPA is more fully outlined in the Michigan State University Access to Student Information guidelines available at:
<https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s542>.