

THE PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS: OVERVIEW INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

What is FERPA?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law which sets privacy standards for student education records. Under FERPA, university students have the right to privacy of their student records.

What information can I obtain about my son or daughter's academic record?

Data defined as public information may be shared (name, telephone numbers, campus e-mail address, college, division, department, field(s) of study (including major, minor, concentration, specialization, and similar designations), class level [e.g. frosh, senior], dates of attendance, number of credits enrolled in the current term, degrees and honors, and name, weight, and height of intercollegiate athletes) unless the student has requested a non-release of public information. Other student record information is considered confidential and may not be shared, even with a parent, without the written consent of the student. Examples include: grades, GPA, number of credits completed, student schedule, and anticipated graduation date.

If my son or daughter is a minor and I pay all of his/her bills, can I have access to his or her student records?

University policy does not permit disclosures of confidential student records to parents of financially dependent children, regardless of a student's age or financial status. This information may only be shared with parents with the written consent of the student, or in a health or safety emergency.

How can I learn about my son or daughter's grades and academic progress?

In keeping with the educational mission of the university, we support the student as a responsible adult making decisions independently, and seeking assistance when needed. As such, we encourage communication between you and your son or daughter about grades and academic progress. Your son or daughter can provide you with their student record information from the Academic Information System (AIS). Some campuses allow students to grant third party access to their student record information; however, AIS does not currently provide this feature.

In unusual situations, a student may choose to authorize release of confidential student record data by signing an authorization including specific information to be shared and the time frame. In such situations, authorization may be given on a case-by-case basis: there are no provisions for a blanket release of student record information.

How can I get access to my son or daughter's bill?

Students may view their account information in AIS via the MyUCSC student portal. They may not grant third party access; however, students may sign up using the portal for e-bill and e-check payment through SallieMae, and then may invite a parent or other payer to access their account information.

Where can I learn more about FERPA?

See "Privacy of Student Records" at reg.ucsc.edu, the Registrar's Office web site.