

ALL ABOUT FERPA

What is FERPA?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 – a federal law that requires institutions to provide students access to information from their educational records and to protect the confidentiality of these educational records.

What does this mean?

Information about a student will not be released to a third party without the student's written consent. *Directory Information* is the only exception to information that can be released without consent. Temple University defines directory information as name, address (street and e-mail), confirmation of enrollment status (full or part-time), dates of attendance, degree received, major field of study, awards received (e.g., Dean's List), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and height and weight of members of athletic teams. Students can request that no information, including directory information, be released.

What are your rights as a parent?

Student consent is not required to release information from educational records to the parents of a *dependent* student. **However**, Temple policy requires verification of the dependent status prior to releasing information or permission of the student. Acceptable verification is a certified copy of the parent's income tax form obtained by the parents from the Internal Revenue Service.

What should you do if you have questions or concerns about your child's academics?

Talk to your son or daughter about your concerns. Good communication is the best way to alleviate your concerns. If you still have questions, call the appropriate advising office. Advisers will answer general questions about University policy and procedures. If your questions are more specific, it's best to schedule an appointment at a time when you will be accompanied by your son or daughter. Students are in charge of their academic career and we encourage them to ask questions. We can explain policies or rules, or refer to services without consent, but any details require a student's involvement. If there are concerns, parents and students can come in together to talk with an advisor.

For additional information about FERPA click here

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>