

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. University policies regarding family educational and privacy rights are governed by FERPA. Copies of the act, policies, and regulations are maintained in the Office of the Registrar. In accordance with FERPA, students of Northwestern Oklahoma State University have the following rights:

1. To inspect and review information contained in their educational records, within forty-five days of the date the University receives a request for access.
2. To challenge the contents of their educational records.
3. To request a hearing if the outcome of their challenge is unsatisfactory.
4. To submit an explanatory statement of inclusion in their educational record if the outcome of the hearing is unsatisfactory.
5. To prevent disclosure, with certain exceptions, of personally identifiable information from their educational records.
6. To secure a copy of the institutional policy.
7. To file complaints with the Family Policy Compliance Office (FPC Office), U.S. Department of Education, concerning alleged failures of Northwestern Oklahoma State University to comply with the Act.
8. To have the opportunity to request the following "directory information" pertaining to them not be released.

The law requires that written approval from the student is necessary before granting access to or releasing educational records to a third party, except in the case of directory information, FERPA authorizes disclosures, and in response to a Federal Grand Jury subpoena.

Public Directory Information

This information may be released by the institution for any purpose, at its discretion. Upon written request by the student, this information will be treated as confidential and released only with the student's written consent. Forms for withholding student "Directory Information" are available in the Office of the Registrar.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University hereby designates the following student information as public or "Directory Information."

- Student's name, local and permanent address, and telephone listing.
- Date and place of birth.
- Classification (grade level).
- Major field of study.
- Enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full or part-time).
- Dates of attendance at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.
- Previous schools attended.
- Expected date of graduation.
- Degree(s) held, date granted, and institution(s) granting such degree(s).
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports.
- Weight and height of athletic team members.
- Awards and honors.
- Hometown newspaper.
- Photograph

Disclosure of Educational Records

Northwestern Oklahoma State University will disclose information from a student's education records only with the written consent of the student, with the following exceptions as defined in FERPA, as amended, which waive prior student consent:

1. School officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the student. School official is defined as an individual currently serving as a member of the Regional University System of Oklahoma or classified as faculty, administrative, or professional, and the staff such school officials supervise; the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Director of Alumni Relations and the Chief Executive Office of the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation and the staff they supervise; the National Student Clearinghouse; and contractors, volunteers, and other non-employees performing institutional functions as school officials with legitimate educational interests. In general, 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 to the University. Records should be used only in the context of official educational business.
2. Officials of schools to which the student seeks to transfer.
3. Educational Officials of Secondary Education Institutions which a concurrent student is enrolled.
4. Officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, and State and local educational authorities.
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the University.
6. In connection with a student's application for, or receipt of financial aid.
7. Accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation function.
8. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
9. To persons in an emergency if the knowledge of information is necessary to protect the health or safety of students.
10. The result of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by the University against an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence to the alleged victim of that crime.