



Privacy Rights of Students

September 2023

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), post-secondary students enrolled at Goshen College are hereby notified of their rights with respect to their education records. They are:

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 should submit to the registrar, dean of students, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The College 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 school 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 or misleading.

Students may ask the College to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the College official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her 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 prohibit disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. A postsecondary institution may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student —
 - To other school officials, including teachers, within the College whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. A school official has legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including security personnel); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Directors; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks.
 - To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2))

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- 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 for 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. (§§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§ 99.31(a)(4))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§ 99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§ 99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§ 99.31(a)(8)) FERPA permits the disclosure of information derived from education records (academic, financial and student life records) to that student's parent if the student is a dependent student, as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Neither the age of the student nor the parent's status as custodial parent is relevant to this exception, but if the student has not consented to disclosure, the parent must provide proof that the student is claimed as a dependent.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§ 99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36. (§ 99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under § 99.37. (§ 99.31(a)(11))
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of § 99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§ 99.31(a)(13))
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of § 99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§ 99.31(a)(14))
- To parents of a student regarding the student's violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. (§99.31(a)(15))



4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Goshen College 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 Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

FERPA further provides that certain information concerning the student, designated as “directory information,” may be released by the College unless the student has informed the College that such information should not be released.

Directory information:

- name
- permanent address
- local address*
- telephone number*
- e-mail address*
- ID photo*
- verification of birth date supplied by inquirer
- dates of attendance
- classification and enrollment status (full or part-time)
- date of graduation and degree received
- major field(s) of study
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- height and weight of athletes
- awards & honors received
- most recent educational institution attended

**Goshen College distributes the information marked with an asterisk, but less publicly than the other items:*

Your local address, e-mail address, phone number, and student ID photo are available on Goshen College's Web site, but only to people using a computer connected to Goshen College's on-campus network (physically connected to the network or remotely connected with a valid Goshen College username and password.)

Goshen College does not provide student e-mail lists to public or private entities.

Any student who desires that any or all of the above listed information not be released may contact the registrar's office or complete the form found at <http://www.goshen.edu/registrar/privacy>.

Questions about this policy may be directed to the Registrar or Dean of Students.