

THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT Official Notification of Rights Under FERPA

Student education records are official and confidential documents protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Educational records, as defined by FERPA, include all records that schools or education agencies maintain about students. FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review their records. Students should contact the Office of the Registrar to determine the location of appropriate records and the procedures for reviewing such records.
2. The right to request that records believed to be inaccurate or misleading be amended. The request should be submitted in writing to the office responsible for maintaining the record. If the request for change is denied, the student has a right to a hearing on the issue.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records. Generally the College must have written permission from the student before releasing any information from the student's record. FERPA does, however, authorize disclosure without consent in certain situations. For example, disclosure without consent can be made to school officials with a legitimate education interest in the record.

A school official is a person employed by the institution in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research or support staff position; a person or company with whom the institution has contracted (i.e., an auditor, attorney or collection agency); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; a student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his/her task. A legitimate education interest exists if the school official needs to view the education record to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, Morningside College will disclose education records, without consent, to officials of another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Morningside College may also disclose "directory" information without the student's prior consent. Directory information is defined as:

- Name
- Local and permanent addresses
- Telephone number(s)
- E-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Major or field(s) of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Enrollment status (FT/PT; undergraduate/graduate)
- Degrees, awards, and honors received and dates
- Expected date of completion of degree requirements and graduation

- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent educational institution attended
- Photograph

Students have the right to prevent directory information from being released. In order to maintain directory information as confidential, a student must sign a non-release form in the Registrar's Office by the end of the second week of the fall semester. This release restriction is effective for the academic year and must be filed each year.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Morningside 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. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-605