

What is FERPA?

FERPA (The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is a Federal Law designed to protect the privacy of a student's education records. All students attending a post-secondary institution are protected under FERPA, regardless of age. Because Pacific is a post-secondary institution, all of our students are protected under FERPA.

As a parent, what does FERPA mean to me?

Because FERPA protects your child's information, their information is kept private to everyone outside, including you. In order to have access to your student's academic information, they must submit a signed and dated release form stating what records they would like to be released, and why.

What information is protected under FERPA?

The following personal information is protected under FERPA:

- Social Security Number
- Billing Address
- Parents' Names and addresses
- GPA and grades
- Current course credits and class schedule (including date, time, location, and course information)
- Academic standing (probation, etc.)
- Student's eligibility to return to the institution
- Petitions to ARC
- Application for graduation
- Unmet degree requirements
- Accounts receivable balance
- Parents' financial records
- Student Employment Records
- Transcripts (when requested by other schools or institutions)

Can I ask student workers for my child's information?

Student workers are considered school officials when their job has a "legitimate educational interest." Therefore, student workers who have access to your child's academic information do not have the authority to release this information.

If there is an emergency, how can I know where my child is on campus if they aren't answering their phone?

In this situation, the University does not have the authority to release class or extracurricular schedules. You may contact the Office of Student Life at 209.946.2365, and we will work on campus to locate your student to relay information from you.

What if my child or someone else is in danger?

Disclosure of protected information is allowed under University of the Pacific Student Records Policy and FERPA if there is a connection to a health or safety emergency if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others. To determine if the disclosure is necessary, the university considers the following factors:

- The seriousness of the threat to health or safety;
- The need for the information to meet the emergency;
- Whether the individual(s) to whom the information is released is in a position to deal with the situation; **and**
- The extent to which time is of the essence.

If you have any additional questions about FERPA, please contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@pacific.edu or 209.946.2135