

The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

At The University of Mississippi, the educational records of all students are protected by the Family Rights and Privacy Act. This Act protects the privacy of educational records, guarantees the rights of students to review their educational records, and provides guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through formal or informal hearings.

Because a student-advising file is considered part of an official academic record, the advisor must, upon request, allow a student to view his/her file. Personal notes by the advisor made during advising sessions may be excluded. You may allow a colleague who will temporarily perform advising duties for a student to see your personal notes related to that student; however, all personal notes from a student's advising file should be removed in cases where advisor and/or major are changed.

In addition, directory information, which includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major, athletic activities, attendance, and degrees and awards received, is not subject to confidentiality restrictions unless a student has refused to have such information distributed by the university (which will be noted "FERPA" in SAP). If a student has not restricted such information, then you may share directory information with parents, employers, or other third parties.

Students own the right to their academic information. Their information cannot be shared with others (including parents) unless the student formally allows for that information to be shared. In those cases, students can sign the Buckley Amendment Waiver Form. Copies of this form are available at the Academic Support Center or in the Dean's Office of the College or School (e.g., Liberal Arts, Business, etc.) in which the student is enrolled.

