



Student Rights to Educational Records and Privacy (FERPA)

1. Policy Statement

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students certain 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 University receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University 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 University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed. The Chief Legal Affairs Officer serves as the University's Custodian of Records for purposes of the Georgia Open Records Act.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University 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 university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University 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 consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

VSU may disclose education records without a student's prior written consent to certain parties under certain conditions, as allowed by FERPA, including:

- School officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff). 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.
- Other schools to which a student is transferring.
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes. This may include a person or



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company with whom the University has contracted such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent.

- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid.
- Organizations conducting certain types of studies for or on behalf of the school.
- Accrediting organizations.
- Compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

Directory information: Valdosta State University publishes student information in the form of directories, programs, etc. Under FERPA, "Directory Information" refers to student information that is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Students who desire their directory information not be released without consent should notify the Office of the Registrar in writing. The following may be included as directory information unless notification is received to the contrary [[USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 3.2.1](#)]:

- Student's name
- Hometown
- Institution-assigned email address. Under this category, an institution-assigned email address may be disclosed without consent only to other, current students. In addition, students may not request email listings of the entire student body or segments thereof, except for academic purposes.
- Major field of study
- Enrollment status (e.g., full-time, part-time)
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Dates of attendance
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Thesis/Dissertation title
- The most recent educational institution attended
- Height and weight of athletes
- Class level

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by State University 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
600 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20202-4605
(202) 260-3887



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2. Related Forms

[FERPA Student Records Release Authorization Form](#)

3. Affected Stakeholders

Indicate all entities and persons within the university affected by this policy:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Students | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Students |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendors/Contractors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

4. Related References

USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook Section 3.2.1 USG FERPA Notification and Directory Information Policy

https://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/section3/C678

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations (FERPA) 34 CFR Part 99

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa>

An Eligible Student Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/eligible-student-guide-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>

A Parent Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/parent-guide-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>

5. Policy Attributes

<i>Responsible Office(s)</i>	Registrar's Office, University Center, 1205 N. Patterson St., 229-333-5727, registrar@valdosta.edu
<i>Approving Officer or Body</i>	President, President's Office, West Hall Suite 1004, 229-333-5952, president@valdosta.edu
<i>Date Approved</i>	06/01/2011
<i>Last Reviewed</i>	06/20/2019, 11/02/2023, 12/17/2024
<i>Revision</i>	11/02/2023: Updated title for records custodian 12/17/2024: Revised definition of "Directory Information" to match USG Directory Information Policy which becomes effective 12/31/2024; revised URL to USDE's FERPA regulations
<i>Next Review Date</i>	12/17/2027