

FERPA – FAQs for Family

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEAUFORT



What is FERPA?

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), passed by Congress in 1974, requires educational institutions to provide students access to their educational records, to allow students to correct inaccurate or misleading information in these records, and to limit the release of information to third parties.

What is Public/Directory Information?

Directory information are considered public and may be released upon request, without the consent of the student. Directory information includes:

- Student Name
- Permanent Mailing Addresses
- USCB Email Address
- Major & Minor field of study
- Classification
- Date of Admission
- Dates of Attendance
- Current or previous enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
- Whether or not currently enrolled
- Anticipated date of graduation & expected degree(s)
- Degrees, honors, and awards received (including scholarships and fellowships)
- Participation in official recognized activities & sports
- Weight & height of athletic team members

What is Private Information?

Private information/data cannot be released to the public and some limitations within the University. At USCB, private information includes:

- Grades
- USCB Student ID Number
- Social Security Number
- Telephone Numbers
- Class Schedule
- Residency
- Class Rank
- Age
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth

When does FERPA protection start for students?

For students at USCB, FERPA protection begins on the 1st day of classes for your first semester of enrollment.

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What is an Education Record?

Education Records are records that are directly related to a student and that are maintained by USCB or a party acting for or on behalf of USCB. These records include but are not limited to grades, transcripts, class lists, student course schedule, and discipline records. The information may be recorded in any way, including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, videotape, audiotape, film, and email.

Where can I find out more information?

Students may find more information regarding FERPA from the U.S Department of Education's website found here:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

If my student is under 18 years old, can I access their education records?

No. When a student begins attending USCB, regardless of age, FERPA rights are not extended to the parents/guardians.

If I'm paying for my student's tuition, can I see their account?

No, student account information is confidential information and part of the student's education record which is protected under FERPA.

Will the professors notify me if my student is not attending class or underperforming?

No, information about class attendance, grades, or overall academic performance are examples of Private Information that make up part of a student's education record and is protected under FERPA.

If there is a family emergency, who should I contact to locate my student?

In case of crisis or emergency, please contact USCB's Department of Public Safety at 843-208-8911.

Do I have access to my student's records if they are a Dual-Enrollment student?

No, dual-enrollment students are still protected under FERPA, regardless of age.

Where do students see their grades?

Students may access their grades via Self-Service Carolina.