

Details of University Adherence to FERPA Requirements

Generally, it is Drake University's policy to request a signed consent from the student before the University will release the student's education records (including grades) to parents. Because students age 18 and older are legally adults, the University encourages parents to become partners with their students. The University believes that this approach reinforces the importance of autonomy and accountability in student development.

There is no law forbidding students from voluntarily sharing information with parents after the student receives it from the University, and no consent form is required for such voluntary sharing between student and parent.

Under the following special circumstances, the University may release student education records to parents or others without student consent:

In an emergency, federal law (FERPA) allows the University to contact parents and other appropriate persons and disclose the information necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons;

FERPA allows the University to disclose to parents or legal guardians information about their students' violation of any federal, state or local law, or any rule or policy of the institution governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, if (a) the student is under the age of 21; and (b) Drake determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to such use or possession of alcohol or controlled substances;

The University may disclose to parents or guardians a student's education record or information therein to the extent necessary to process the student's financial aid request and for such related purposes as to:

1. determine eligibility for the aid;
2. determine the amount of the aid;
3. determine the conditions for the aid; and/or
4. enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.

Consistent with FERPA, if the student decides not to grant permission, then parents will have access to their student's records if they can provide evidence that meets the "dependent for tax purposes" requirement. (A dependent is an appropriate relative or member of the taxpayer's household who receives more than half of his/her support for the calendar year from the taxpayer. Scholarships are not taken into consideration. 26 U.S.C. Â§ 152.)

The University's policy regarding disclosure of student information to parents is explained to parents and students at summer orientation. Students may authorize their parents' access to their record via the Student Services tab in myDrake (the campus web portal).

Questions regarding FERPA, University policy or parental access to student education records can be addressed to the Office of the Registrar, 515-271-2025, or to the Associate Provost for Academic Excellence and Student Success at 515-271-3751.

More information about FERPA can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.