



# FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT ( FERPA)

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**ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR

# WHAT IS FERPA

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One of the most significant changes a parent or guardian experiences in sending a student to college is the difference in privacy standards for educational records. Alcorn State University values the student's right to privacy.

The university adheres to a federal law called the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also called FERPA or the Buckley Amendment) that sets privacy standards for student educational records and requires institutions to publish a compliance statement.

*Our hope is that this brochure will provide parents and guardians the information needed to better understand a student's right to privacy*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q. Why do I have limited access to my student's college records?**

- A. Under FERPA, the access rights that parents and legal guardians have are limited. However, parents can be given access to records if the student grants the parent permission to access his or her records by completing a Consent to Release Student Information form.

- **Q. What records does FERPA cover?**

- A. The privacy protection FERPA gives to students is very broad. With limited exceptions, the FERPA regulations give privacy protection to the student's "education records." Examples of student records covered by FERPA are grade reports, transcripts and most disciplinary files.

- **Q. How can I find out my student's grades?**

- A. The best approach is to ask your student directly. Parents cannot have access to a student's grades unless they have written consent from the student.

- **Q. Will I be notified if my student is placed on academic or probation or suspension?**

- A. No. Information about grades and academic standing is sent directly to students. You can, of course, ask your student to keep you informed about his or her academic performance

- **Q. In addition to the student, who has access to the education record?**

- A. Generally, schools must have written permission from the student in order to release any information for a student's education record. However, FERPA allow schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions: School officials with legitimate educational interest; Other schools to which a student is transferring; Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes; Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school; Accrediting organizations; to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; and Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

- **Q. Will I be notified if my student is not attending classes?**

- A. No. Alcorn does not require faculty to report to parents.

- **Q. Will I be informed if my student is receiving medical treatment or seeing a mental health therapist at the university?**

- No. Alcorn does not disclose violations to parents, except in health and safety situations.

# WHAT IS DIRECTORY INFORMATION?

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- The only public information available is “Directory Information.” This information may be disclosed by the institution for any purpose, without the student’s consent. Directory information includes:
  - **Student Name**
  - **Local telephone listing**
  - **University Post Office Box Number**
  - **University E-mail Address**
  - **Academic Class Level**
  - **Enrollment Status**
  - **Expected degree(s) and/or degree(s) earned**
  - **Dates of Attendance**
  - **Weight, height, and sport of participation for members of athletic teams**
  - **Sorority or fraternity affiliation**
  
- **Alcorn State University students can obtain a Consent to Release Student Information form on the Registrar’s Office page via [www.alcorn.edu](http://www.alcorn.edu). By completing this form, the student authorizes designated family members to have access to specific information in their records.**

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## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

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- For more information please contact:
- Office of The Registrar at 601-877-6170
- 1000 ASU Drive, 420 Alcorn State, MS 39096
- or contact The U.S. Department of Education who also maintains a FERPA website at [www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa/parents.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa/parents.html).