Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law enacted in 1974 to protect the privacy of student education records. The law applies to those institutions that regularly receive federal funding from the Department of Education and is enforced by the Office of the Chief Privacy Officer of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA defines an eligible student as a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Students have four primary rights under FERPA:

- To inspect and review their education records
- To seek to amend those education records they believe to be inaccurate or misleading
- To have some control over the disclosure of information from those education records
- To file a complaint concerning alleged failures by an institution to comply with FERPA regulations within 180 days

Complaints of alleged violations may be addressed to

Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

The UT Dallas FERPA violation link is located at [www.utdallas.edu/ferpa](http://www.utdallas.edu/ferpa).

FERPA does not extend to research papers and theses authored by students; these documents are available to interested members of the public.

Detailed information pertaining to the content of and handling of students' education records is
contained in University policy Handbook of Operating Procedures, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (UTDSP5010). Students wishing more information about their rights established under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act should contact the Office of the Registrar, Student Services Building, (972) 883-2342 or visit www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa.