



## ANNUAL CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS NOTICE

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, grants all eligible students the right of access to their own educational records as defined in the law. The law prohibits access to or release of personally identifiable information without the prior written consent of the student except under certain limited circumstances. California Northstate University policy does not permit access to or release of student records to any party except as authorized by this law. It should be noted, however, that this legislation concerning privacy is affected by Section 510 of the Veterans Education and Employment Act of 1976, which provides that, P.L. 93-568 notwithstanding, records and accounts pertaining to veterans, as well as those of other students, shall be available for examination by government representatives. It is also affected by Sections 507 and 508 of the Patriot Act of 2001, which provides that officials designated by the U.S. Attorney General may petition the court to examine records deemed relevant to certain authorized investigations or prosecutions. If a student wishes to inspect or review his or her records, he or she may contact the office concerned. Complete information concerning this policy is available in the Office of the Registrar.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended was designed to protect the privacy of education records. Education records include records, files, documents, or other materials in hard copy or in electronic format, maintained by California Northstate University which contain information directly related to a student.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day California Northstate University receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school 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 school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the school to amend a record should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's 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.

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3. The right to provide written consent before the university discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The school discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by California Northstate University in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of California Northstate University who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. 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 responsibilities for California Northstate University.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by California Northstate 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  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

The following is considered "Directory Information" at California Northstate University and may be made available to the general public unless the student notifies the Office of the Registrar in writing before the last day to add a class in a semester:

- Student's name
- E-mail Address
- Address
- Telephone Listing
- Photo
- Major field of study
- Classification (Class of/Graduate)
- Enrollment Status
- Dates of attendance
- Club and/or Organization memberships
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended