

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

This federal law provides that eligible students have access to their educational records for inspection and review; further, this law protects the rights of a student to privacy by limiting access by others to education records without express written consent of the student.

- SONORAN may release information from an education record without the consent of the student to officials of another college or university where the student seeks or intends to enroll, as permitted by FERPA SS99.31 (a) (2).
- SONORAN may release information from an education record without the consent of the student to another educational institution in which the student is enrolled. For example, SONORAN may release academic records for a "dual enrollment" without prior written consent of the student (FERPA SS99.34 (b)).
- SONORAN may disclose information from an education record without the consent of the student if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals (FERPA SS99.36).
- Student records are open to other school officials, including faculty and administration, and local and state education agencies that have been determined to have a legitimate educational interest, including those specified by the act as amended Jan. 3, 2012.
- Students have the right to review and inspect their education records, including their application, except for confidential recommendations. Photo identification must be presented before access to education records will be permitted. An appointment must be made with the Registrar's Office to access an education record.

Directory Information

SONORAN may release information that has been defined under the Directory Information provision of FERPA. SONORAN defines directory information as name, address, photo/photo-ID, phone number, e-mail address, dates of attendance, program of study, degree conferral date, enrollment status, grade level, and degree/awards earned. Forms are available at the Welcome & Enrollment Center or the Registrar's Office for a student to request that SONORAN withhold all directory information.

Proper Disclosure

Student information of a private, personal, or confidential nature that is provided to SONORAN faculty and staff will not be disclosed improperly. The faculty is expected to provide accurate evaluations of students. For the purposes of monitoring and recording student progress, evaluations include the strengths and weaknesses of academic, clinical, communication, and professional skills. The evaluations also include observations and opinions regarding academic effort and professional conduct. Although not required, faculty and staff may provide judgments of a student's abilities and character to others in appropriate circumstances in accordance with the SONORAN policy on student records.