

Student Records and Privacy Rights

Mitchell Community College must maintain accurate and confidential student records and must recognize the rights of students to have access to their educational and personal records in accordance with existing College policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). College officials responsible for the proper maintenance of educational records include the director of admissions/registrar and the vice president for student services.

FERPA provides safeguards regarding the confidentiality of and access to student records. Students and former students have the right to inspect and review their official records and to request a hearing if they challenge the contents of these records. No records shall be made available to unauthorized personnel or groups outside Mitchell without the written consent of the student involved, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Mitchell to comply with the requirements of the Act. 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 20202-5901.

“Educational Records” include files, documents and other materials that contain information directly related to students. The term “educational records” does not include the following:

- Records and documents of institutional personnel that are kept apart from educational records.
- Records on the student that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, or other recognized professionals or paraprofessionals acting in their official capacity.
- Financial records on the parents of the student.
- Records of instructional, supervisory and administrative personnel kept in their sole possession provided they are “not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute.”

Release of Student Educational Records

The following “Directory Information” may be made available to the public by Mitchell without the student’s written permission (unless the student notifies the vice president for student services in writing by the third week of the semester that such information concerning themselves is not to be made available):

- Student’s name, address, and telephone number.
- Major field of study or program, club and sport activities.
- Dates of attendance, degrees, diplomas, honors, or awards received and the most recent previous educational institution.

School officials who demonstrate a legitimate educational interest will be permitted to look at a student's official file. School officials include those employed by Mitchell in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position; a person or company with whom Mitchell has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using Mitchell employees; a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee or assisting 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 responsibilities to Mitchell.

Requests for confidential information shall not be honored without proper written consent. The written consent must specify the records or the specific data to be released and to whom it is to be released, and each request must be handled separately.

Exceptions to this policy:

- Requests for confidential information will be honored without prior consent of the student in connection with an emergency.
- Official requests in connection with the audit and evaluation of federal or state supported programs or in connection with enforcement of federal or legal requirements which relate to such programs.
- An official order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Subpoena. (Students will be notified immediately by registered mail that their records are being subpoenaed.)
- Persons or organizations providing financial aid to the student or determining financial aid decisions.