



The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and UT Austin

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, or FERPA, is a federal law that restricts access to educational records and information that make the student's identity easily traceable. Access to this information is restricted to appropriate university personnel who require this information in order to perform their legitimate educational duties.

At UT Austin, many parents and families are surprised to learn that FERPA protection means they do not have access to their student's educational records, including grades and class schedules. Universities can interpret FERPA differently, so it is possible to have had access to this information at another institution with another child.

We encourage parents, families and students to create open lines of communication so that you are able to get information such as grades from the best source: your students. As you and your student build the framework for these conversations, we encourage you to explain to your student why you want this information and how, with it in hand, you are better equipped to help your student.

Keep in mind, professors do not always post grades immediately as high school teachers did. Once your student has the syllabus for each class, we encourage you to review them with your student so that you both have an understanding of how each professor's course is structured and with that information, you and your student can come to a mutual agreement of how your student will communicate the information you seek.

While UT Austin does not offer a FERPA release for grades and class schedules, your student can complete a FERPA Release Authorization form online that allows the Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid (OSFA) to discuss your student's financial aid with you. If your student would like your assistance with the financial aid process, it is important that your student complete one form per parent/guardian as soon as possible by going to your student's [Check Aid Status Here](#) (CASH) page.

If you would like to learn more about FERPA, go [here](#) for information from the U.S. Department of Education.