

## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, sets forth requirements regarding the privacy of student records and affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Although FERPA contains exceptions for the release of “directory information” without a student’s prior written consent, students have the right to request that even such directory information be withheld from disclosure to third parties. Applicants who are not admitted to the University or who do not matriculate following admission have no right of access to their submitted education records.

Education records include any information or documentation that is recorded in any way, including records produced by handwriting, computer, email, audio, and video, among others. Educational records contain information directly related to a student and are maintained by Adler University or any party acting on its behalf. Adler University does not maintain education records in one central office. Education records are maintained in the Office of the Registrar and in the respective academic program and department offices. Other education records are maintained in Financial Aid (financial aid information), Student Accounts (financial account payment information), Student Affairs, the Office of Community Engagement, the Training Department, and other offices. Questions regarding individual student records should be directed to the appropriate department.

Adler does not release copies of students’ transcripts from other institutions. Students are encouraged to contact their previous institutions for copies of their transcripts.

FERPA provides students the following rights:

- To inspect and review educational records by submitting a written request to the Office of the Registrar. Requests can take up to 45 days. Students should submit to the Office of the Registrar, Dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University 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 University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- To request the amendment of the student’s educational records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. The student should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her 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.

- To consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent, such as directory information. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to university officials with legitimate educational interests. A university official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff), or a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent). A university official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- Students who believe their privacy has been violated have the right to file a written grievance with the Office of the Registrar by following the procedures of the Grievance Appeal Policy posted online at [adler.edu](http://adler.edu).
- Students are informed of their rights under FERPA each October by the Office of the Registrar. The annual FERPA notice is located on the Office of the Registrar page on Adler Connect. For the annual notice please go to <https://connect.adler.edu/studentservices/registrar>.

Given the restrictions of FERPA, Adler University faculty and staff and any entity acting on behalf of Adler University should assume that all students must provide written consent that follows the format specified in FERPA before any education records may be released to anyone other than the student. Information cannot be released to any third party, including a student's parents, relatives, and friends. Particularly sensitive information includes a student's Social Security number, race or ethnicity, gender, nationality, academic performance, disciplinary records, and grades.