



Understanding FERPA & Students' Rights to Privacy

Many parents are surprised to find that they do not have access to their student's grades at UT, but grades are one of the many pieces of information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

FERPA is a federal law that restricts access to educational records and information that make the student's identity easily traceable.

All universities must adhere to FERPA, but every institution can interpret the law differently. You may have had access to certain information, like grades, at your student's previous institution but, UT Austin interprets FERPA seriously and protects a high degree of student information, including grades.

Access to this information is restricted to appropriate university personnel who require this information in order to perform their legitimate educational duties.

According to FERPA, parents no longer have access to their student's educational records, including their grades, regardless of whether they are paying for their student's education or not. If information from an educational record is needed to resolve a crisis or emergency situation, the University may release that information if it is determined that the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

We encourage parents and students to create open lines of communication so that parents are able to get information such as grades from the best source, their students.

For more information about FERPA, visit registrar.utexas.edu/students/records/ferpa