

## Privacy Notice & Request for Confidential Status of Directory Information

In accordance with institutional policy and the U.S. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Western Nevada College vigorously protects the privacy of student educational records. The institution does not release the records of individual students, such as grades and class schedules, without prior written consent of the student. WNC does not release information to parents of students regardless of dependence status without prior written consent of the student. A student is defined as an individual who has applied to WNC and who is or has been in attendance at WNC.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the institution receives a request for access. WNC is not required to provide copies of such records to student. A student should submit to the registrar, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The institution 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 institution official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. A student who wishes to ask the institution to amend a record should write the institution official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the institution decides not to amend the record as requested, the institution will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's 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.
- (3) The right to provide written consent before the institution discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The institution discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the institution in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the institution has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using institutional employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance 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 professional responsibilities for the institution. Upon request, the institution also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll; authorized representatives from federal and state agencies; accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation functions; military recruiters as specified in the Solomon Amendment; persons in compliance with a judicial order; officials providing student financial aid; the audit firm retained by the Nevada System of Higher Education; the data warehouse for NSHE or designated institutional research personnel; and persons in an emergency to protect the health/and/or safety of students, or other persons.

As permitted under federal law, an exception to the above practice is the release of “directory” information considered to be public in nature and not generally deemed to be an invasion of privacy. The institution has designated the following information as directory information: student name, address including city and state, telephone number, Email address, full-time/part-time status, graduation date, major/field of study, degrees, honors and awards received, dates of attendance and whether currently enrolled, most recent educational agency or institutions attended, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and photographs from college sanctioned events.

Students have the right to refuse to let WNC and NSHE designate this information as directory information and have until the end of the first six weeks of the fall or spring semester to submit a request for non-disclosure of the above items. A request for non-disclosure submitted at one NSHE institution will apply to all NSHE institutions.

- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the requirements of FERPA. 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

It is important to consider carefully the potential consequences of restricting the release of directory information. If a student restricts release for non-commercial educational purposes, the institution will be unable to place the student’s name in publications such as honors and graduation programs, to confirm graduation and dates of attendance to potential employers; or to verify enrollment with organizations such as insurance companies without the express written authorization of the student.

If, after due consideration, you wish to restrict the release of directory information, visit FERPA Restrictions, under the Personal Information tile in your myWNC Student Center or if you do not have access to your myWNC student center, complete this form and submit it to Admissions and Records. This directive will apply permanently to your record, even after graduation, until you reverse it by submitting a written authorization to Admissions and Records or changing the restriction in myWNC.

Do not disclose my information for commercial purposes.

Do not disclosed my information for non-commercial, educational purposes.

Do not disclose my information for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The authorization can be mailed, faxed or delivered in person to Admissions and Records.

08/14/2024