



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS
STUDENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF EDUCATION RECORDS INFORMATION
(Revised Summer 2009)

Background

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (“FERPA” or the Buckley Amendment) is a federal law that affords students certain rights with respect to their **education records** (which include, but are not limited to, the following examples - academic records, financial aid and billing information, meal plan and records, residence hall/life information, advising conference notes, internships and field placement records, student employment records). One part of FERPA focuses on confidentiality of education records. School officials (e.g., instructors, administrative and department staff, field placement coordinators and supervisors, and other full-time and part-time university employees) must protect the privacy of education records and shall not disclose personally identifiable information about a student or permit inspection of the student’s records without his or her written consent or as permitted by law. The student’s written signed consent must contain three elements, as described below:

(1) Specify the records to be released

Examples: class registration and grades; financial aid information; student accounts, billing, meal plan; notes based on observations; general assessment of performance of student in a class or in a field-based experience

(2) Identify the party or class of parties to whom the records should be released

Examples: parent, prospective employer, non-UW-River Falls school official, scholarship committee member

(3) Indicate the reason for the release

Examples: to authorize the university to disclose/release information to a parent; as part of an application for employment or admission into a graduate program; application for a scholarship or grant

Note to UWRF employees, cooperating teachers, and supervisors regarding letters of reference: Unless you have the student’s written signed consent, a letter of reference written on behalf of a student does NOT provide you the authorization to disclose the student’s educational records or to discuss his/her performance even if the letter welcomes telephone calls or other inquiries about the student.

Directions for Student:

It is your obligation to complete, sign, and present in-person a **separate** Student Authorization for Release of Education Records Information form to any UW-RF individual who may be called upon to disclose education records about you or your performance (e.g., registrar, financial aid counselor, student accounts/billing director, ID/meal plan administrator, professor, internship supervisor, or cooperating teacher in a field experience).

Directions for UW-River Falls faculty and staff:

A Student Authorization for Release of Education Records Information form completed and signed by the student, must be in your possession before disclosing education records or discussing the student’s performance with someone other than the student or another person as permitted by the law. The Authorization form must indicate the name of the person(s) or organizations/units to which you will disclose the student’s information.

Directions for field supervisors (including cooperating teachers, librarians, counselors, etc.):

A Student Authorization for Release of Education Records Information form completed and signed by the student, must be in your possession before disclosing education records or discussing the student’s performance with someone other than the student or another person as permitted by the law. The Authorization form must indicate the name of the person(s) or organizations/units to which you will disclose the student’s information.

Questions regarding FERPA should be directed to the UW-River Falls Registrar’s Office (North Hall room 105, email registrar@uwrf.edu or phone 715-425-3342).