

Grinnell College FERPA FAQ for Students

What is FERPA?

Sometimes called the Buckley Amendment, FERPA is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 1974, FERPA is a federal Act that grants four specific rights to students.

Why is access to my educational record so limited?

- From a legislative perspective, FERPA's primary purpose is to establish a uniform framework for access, review, and amendment of educational records, at all levels nationwide. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(1)(A))

party (e.g. parent, grandparent, employer, nonprofit organization, etc.) to whom you want the information disclosed. The academic waiver is effective for 1 semester. The student affairs waiver is effective for 1 academic year.

Remember that certain information is protected by state or federal privacy laws (e.g. HIPAA) and must remain confidential even when a FERPA waiver is in place.

Is there a single waiver I can sign so that a third party can have access to all of my records?

Unfortunately, no. Systematic diversity at the College presents technological constraints to a single waiver. See the section above regarding access.

How can I make sure that college related bills are sent to the right place?

Initial paper billing statements and email notifications are sent to you, tytai541 an b

Will Grinnell inform my parent if I am seeing a College counselor other health

If I verbally ask a school official to serve as a reference or provide a letter of recommendation to a third party, is that sufficient?

No, written authorization is required. Grinnell College school officials will ask you to complete the FERPA Authorization for Reference/Recommendation

If I ask a school official via email to serve as a reference or provide a letter of recommendation to a third party, is that sufficient?

Technically yes, but it is best practice for all Grinnell College school officials to uniformly ask all student to complete the FERPA Authorization for Reference/Recommendation

What if I already signed a FERPA waiver with another institution, employer, government agency, etc.? Is that sufficient for a school official to serve as a reference or provide a letter of recommendation?

Technically yes, though the school official will want to retain a copy of that

Are my employment records part of my educational record?

If you are employed by Grinnell College as a result of your status as a student, then yes—your employment records are considered part of your educational records. The employment records of a Grinnell employee who takes a class at the College