The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a Federal law that is administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA applies to all educational agencies and institutions that receive funding under any program administered by the DOE.

When a student reaches 18 years of age or attends a postsecondary institution, he or she becomes an "eligible student" under FERPA and all rights formerly given to parents transfer to the student.

FERPA requires institutions to notify students annually of their rights under the Act. Stockton posts this information in goStockton on the Student Services tab. Your rights to access your education records are summarized below:

Access to Records:

You have the right to inspect and review your educational records within 45 days following receipt of a request for access. To access your records, proper identification is required as well as reasonable allowances for time, place and supervision.

Amendment of Records:

You have the right to request that inaccurate or misleading information in your education records be amended. To request an amendment to your records, you will need to submit a statement in writing to the college official responsible for the record. Clearly identify the inaccuracy or misleading information and your reason(s) about why you believe the information is inaccurate or misleading. You may view the college officials responsible for your record from the Registrar’s Home page under FERPA.

Disclosure Records:

As noted above, once a student reaches 18 years of age or attends a postsecondary institution, he or she becomes an "eligible student," and all rights formerly given to parents under FERPA transfer to the student.

Stockton does not release any information (except that which is permitted under the FERPA regulations) without the student’s written consent. This includes your parent(s). You may authorize a parent (or other person) to have access to certain records through Stockton’s Proxy Management and Access System. From goStockton click on the Proxy Management link on the Student Services tab in the Registration Tools box. Authorizing a proxy through your goStockton account will serve as written consent.

It should also be noted that, under FERPA, institutions may release information to parents without the consent of the student if the student is a dependent for tax purposes under the IRS rules. The parent will need to submit a copy of his/her most recent federal tax records to the Office of the Registrar.
FERBA regulations allow institutions to disclose information to “school officials” that have been determined by the institution to have a “legitimate educational interest.” Stockton defines “school officials” as a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position.

FERPA regulations also permit the disclosure of “directory information” to non-institutional persons/organizations outside of the college without the student’s written consent.

Directory information includes:

- Student Name
- Campus Telephone Number
- Program of Study
- Class Level
- Enrollment Status (full/part-time)
- Dates of Attendance
- Degrees Awarded
- Honors
- Certifications
- Participation in Recognized Activities and Sports
- Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Teams
- Last Educational Agency/Institution Attended by Student

The college may release any of these items without written consent from the student. To prevent your “directory information” from being released, you will need complete and submit the Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information form to the Registrar’s Office before the end of the drop/add period noted on the academic calendar. Preventing disclosure of directory information is not the same as granting authorization to a proxy and will not prevent the proxy from accessing to your records through the Proxy Management System in goStockton. It is the student’s responsibility to delete a proxy from the Proxy Management System in goStockton.

**File a Complaint:**

You have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if you believe the college has failed to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

**Other:**

The FERPA regulations can be viewed from the Registrar’s Home Page under FERPA or the following website: