EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 (also known as the Buckley Amendment) guarantees each student the right to know what information the University maintains about individual students and the right to ensure the accuracy of that information. Students also have the right to know who has access to files of information and for what purposes as well as to control to a significant extent the distribution of that information outside the institution. MidAmerica Nazarene University complies fully with this law.

FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

◦ School officials with legitimate educational interest;
◦ Other schools to which a student is transferring;
◦ Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
◦ Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
◦ Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
◦ Accrediting organizations;
◦ To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
◦ Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
◦ State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

A school official with a legitimate educational interest is defined at MNU as a person employed by the University 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 University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; 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.

Directory information is data about a student which can be released without prior consent. MNU designates the following items as Directory Information: Name; address; email address; telephone number; hometown, parents or guardians, date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; points earned in competition in activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; most recent previous educational institution attended by student; photograph; classification; and, enrollment status (undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time).

Unless the University has been notified by the student that directory information about himself/herself is not to be released, MNU is free to release such information at its discretion and without further permission. Students who do not wish to permit the distribution of such information shall complete and sign a form to that effect during the registration period each semester. Students may request that all or part of the information not be released. If a student makes such a request, MNU will not release any of the directory information.

The University Registrar serves as the institutional FERPA Compliance Officer.