



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

FERPA Scenarios:

1. Instructor Smith, who teaches MATH 1320, requests for the MATH 1310 grades and cumulative GPA's and cumulative GPAs for three of his current students (Note: MATH 1310 is pre-requisite to MATH 1320). Can you provide the information?

2. You receive a phone call from the local police department asking if you can verify that one of your students was scheduled for a class on a specific date and time. The police officer indicates he is involved in an investigation concerning the student. Are you permitted to provide the requested information?

3. A student tweets to a professor. Is this protected under FERPA?

4. A professor publically tweets back to the student in response. Is this protected under FERPA?

5. You receive a call from WSSU campus police to get the address and class schedule of a student. You are informed that he has a warrant for the student's arrest. Can you provide the requested information?

6. You receive a frantic phone call from someone stating to be a student's mother who must get in touch with her daughter immediately due to a family emergency. Can you provide information pertaining to the student's class schedule?

7. You receive a call from someone indicating they are performing a background check on a student in preparation for a job offer. The student has not provided written consent to release educational information. How can you respond?

8. An FBI agent comes to your office and asks for a copy of a student's transcript or some other non-directory information. The agent presents his badge and states he's performing a background check. Can you release the information?

9. A parent calls to talk about why her son received a poor grade in your class. Can you talk with her?

10. The faculty advisor for a sorority has asked for GPAs of all the members in order that scholarships and academic honors can be determined. Can you provide the information?

11. A mother calls your office, looking for information about her son. She has not heard from him in three weeks and he has not returned her phone calls. She is worried. She wants the names, phone numbers and email addresses of her son's instructors to verify whether or not her son is attending classes. Should you provide that information?

12. You receive a call from the parents of one of you former students. Their son was dismissed over a year ago. The parents live in Florida and have been paying for their son to attend WSSU for every term during the last three years. They called to see how things were going since they didn't hear much from their son. How do you handle the conversation?

13. A student asks you to write a letter of recommendation for a job application. She provides you with a copy of her resume that indicates her GPA. May you include in the letter the GPA and grades she received in your class?

14. One of your past advisees graduated from WSSU several years ago. He has been a very involved alumnus. A journalist wants to write a story about his involvement with the University. What information can you provide?
