

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 was enacted to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for correction of inaccurate or misleading statements. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day Penn Commercial receives a request for access. A student should submit to the Director of Reports and Statistics, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. A school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. A student who wishes to ask Penn Commercial to amend a record should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If Penn Commercial decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to an appeal.
- The right to provide written consent before Penn Commercial discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. The school discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Penn Commercial to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

Penn Commercial has established the following student information as public or directory information, which may be disclosed by the institution at its discretion: student name; program; dates of attendance; full- or part-time enrollment status; year level; degrees and awards received, including honors/high honors; the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended, addresses, phone numbers, photographs, and email addresses. Students may request that Penn Commercial withhold release of their directory information by notifying the Director of Reports and Statistics in writing.