1. When a student reaches the age of 18, or begins attending a post-secondary institution regardless of age, FERPA transfers rights from the parent to the student.
2. Which of the following is NOT a specific right granted to students by FERPA?

1. The right to inspect and review his/her education records.
2. The right to inspect and review their siblings’ education record.
3. The right to consent to disclosure of his/her record.
4. The right to file a complaint concerning alleged failure by Penn State to comply with the requirements of FERPA with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.
5. The right to request the amendment of inaccurate or otherwise inappropriate education records.
6. A student requests their record be kept “confidential”. This will prevent the University from responding to enrollment and degree inquiries from third parties, including potential employers.
7. When a parent calls asking how their son or daughter is doing in a class, you are allowed to provide that information.
8. A colleague in your department wants to check on accommodations that were made for a student with a learning disability in a previous semester. Under FERPA, which of the following responses would be appropriate?
9. Check your files and get back to your colleague.
10. Refer colleague to the Office of Disability Services.
11. Refer colleague to the Office of the University Registrar
12. Refer colleague to the Privacy Office.
13. You are responsible for abiding by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Security and confidentiality of student information is a responsibility of all university employees.
14. Where is information on FERPA available?
15. the Registrar’s website at <http://www.registrar.psu.edu/>
16. GURU policies.
17. by contacting the University Privacy Office, privacy@psu.edu, 814-863-3049 or 814-863-7820.
18. all of the above
19. A student calls indicating her roommate asked her to get his final exam grade for him. You are allowed to share this information with the roommate.
20. You receive a call from a recruiting firm asking for names and addresses of students with a GPA of 3.0 or better. They say they have valuable information about potential jobs for these students. You are allowed to give out this information since it could potentially help these students get jobs.
21. You receive a phone call from the local police department indicating that they are trying to determine whether a particular student was scheduled to be in class on a specific day. Since they are in the middle of a police investigation, you are allowed to give them a copy of the student’s class schedule.
22. You get a frantic phone call from an individual who says that he is the father of a Penn State student and must get in touch with his daughter immediately because of a family emergency. You are permitted to tell him when and where her next class is today.
23. Under FERPA, which of the following is NOT an “educational record:”
24. a student’s traffic violation.
25. the grade from a student’s paper.
26. a student’s e-mail address.
27. the women soccer team’s roster showing home town, height, weight, and current semester standing.
28. a student’s work study work record.
29. Professor Stewart comes to you with a concern. She has been informed that a student in her online class has a confidentiality hold. Yet a significant requirement for the course is online discussion and online group projects—demanding the list of students' email addresses. In fact, the description, outline, and syllabus made available prior to registration all state that email addresses of enrollees will be made available. How do you advise the instructor?
30. Grant the student an exemption from the course requirement.
31. Tell the student to either remove the confidentiality hold or drop the course.
32. Allow the student to participate in the course using a fictitious name.
33. None of the above. Confidentiality does not give the student the right to be anonymous in the class.
34. Instructor Morris who teaches MATH 141 comes to you with a request for the MATH 140 grades of four of his current students. Math 140 is a prerequisite for Math 141. How do you respond to his request?
35. Instructor Morris indicates that his reason for wanting to know the grades for Math 140 is to be able to assess the students' knowledge of the material and provide a starting point for material to be covered in Math 141. This is a legitimate educational interest and you release the grades to him.
36. Instructor Morris does not provide any reason for wanting to know the grades. You provide him with a list indicating which of the students successfully completed Math 140 with a passing grade, but do not give him the actual grades.
37. Both A and B are correct.
38. None of the above.

The correct answer is “**C**” – both A and B. You are the judge of what constitutes a “legitimate educational interest.” You must be convinced of the “legitimate educational interest” before releasing the information to another University employee.

As you can see, there are some grey areas in FERPA that allow for individual interpretation. You need to use your judgment as to what constitutes a "legitimate educational interest". When in doubt, push back to the requester and see if they can live without the confidential information on individual students.

1. A local car dealership asks for a list of all new first year students and graduate students, including addresses, so that he can send them information about “new student purchasing discounts”. Penn State does list such information as Directory Information. The dealer, also on your Campus’ Advisory Board, responds by saying that you have to give him that information because it is part of the Directory Information. In this case, you may provide the list to the dealer.
2. An institution must permit a student to review his records within how many days from the day the student requests the review?
3. 45 days
4. 28 days
5. 30 days
6. 10 days
7. At Penn State, directory information includes all of the following except the student's:
8. dates of attendance.
9. email address.
10. class schedule.
11. weight and height (athletic team members).
12. major.
13. The adviser of a fraternity has asked that you provide the grade point averages for all of their members in order that scholarships and academic honors can be awarded. How do you respond to his request?
14. You ask the adviser what grade point average is required to qualify for the scholarships and academic honors, then provide the adviser with a list of those students who have a GPA at or above that level. You do not provide the actual GPAs for each fraternity member.
15. Since the adviser is a Penn State staff member and the fraternity is a sanctioned University organization, the adviser has a "legitimate educational interest" in this information. You share the GPAs as requested, but caution the adviser that he may NOT share this information with the fraternity members.
16. Both A and B are correct.
17. None of the above.
18. A student's degree can be confirmed to some external (outside of Penn State) source without first obtaining the permission of the student as long as "degree" is identified by the institution as directory information and the student has not requested confidentiality (i.e. blocked release of their directory information).
19. It is permissible for a professor to post student grades on an office door if only a student's PSU ID number and not their name is used.
20. Faculty have a right to inspect education records of any student attending Penn State without giving a reason.
21. Student representatives on official University committees (e.g., honors, curriculum, etc.) may have the right to see other students' education records that are necessary to the deliberations of the committee.
22. An institution which designates certain items as "directory information" must give students the opportunity to decline to have any of that information released.
23. It is permissible to distribute graded examinations by placing them on a table for students to pick up after class.
24. It is permissible for a faculty member to include a student's grades and GPA in a letter of recommendation without obtaining the student's written permission since the student requested the faculty member to write the recommendation and provided a copy of her resume (which contains GPA) to the faculty member.
25. A student's written permission is required before an institution releases information to a national research organization conducting a study by written agreement with the university on the advantages and disadvantages of selective admissions.
26. An institution must release to anyone upon request any information identified as directory information by the institution.
27. Grades may be released to a student's employer without the student's written permission if it has been determined that the employer will reimburse the student/employee for any grade of "C" or better.
28. You receive a phone call asking to verify (1) that a currently enrolled student attends your institution, (2) what his address was at the time of attendance, (3) his major and (4) his GPA. According to FERPA, you can verify all of these except the student's
29. attendance at the institution
30. address during the time of attendance
31. major
32. GPA
33. A faculty member asks you for the names and GPA's of all of the graduates in his program since its beginning in 1980. Which of the following statements is true?
34. The faculty member can legally obtain this information under FERPA as long as he has written permission from the dean (or designee).
35. The faculty member cannot legally obtain this information since it is excluded from FERPA.
36. The faculty member must provide a valid reason for needing the information.
37. The faculty member is not entitled to all of the information since FERPA does not permit release of this information on students not currently attending the institution.
38. FERPA requires institutions to obtain which of the following from the student before releasing any directory information:
39. written permission
40. verbal permission
41. certified permission
42. none of the above
43. "Legitimate educational interest" refers to:
44. a school official's need to review a student's education records.
45. a student's right to review his education records.
46. the need to provide education records in child custody cases.
47. the delegation of authority to the trustees to determine educational records policy for the institution.

1. Which of the following would NOT be acceptable under FERPA?
2. releasing the title of a congressman's degree to the local newspaper
3. a faculty member announcing to his class that they can pick up their graded term papers from the chair outside his office
4. releasing student education records to the PA Dept. of Education in relation to an audit of a state-funded program
5. the provost having access to all students' education records
6. releasing a student education record to an officer of the court in response to a legally issued subpoena
7. According to FERPA, students may request that institutions not disclose which of the following about them:
8. directory information
9. non-directory information
10. both directory information and non-directory information
11. incidental information
12. education record information
13. At the college level, FERPA states that parents:
14. have the same rights of access and review as their child.
15. may review their child's grades if they have written consent from their child.
16. may receive tuition bills for their child sent directly to them from the institution.
17. can only see their child's records after receiving permission from the dean of students (or designee).
18. At Penn State, the FERPA rights of a student begin:
19. on the first day of classes.
20. when the student is formally admitted.
21. when the student pays his first tuition bill.
22. when the application for admission is received.

1. An education record is:
2. a list of names of students in a class.
3. a copy of a student's SAT scores in his file.
4. an electronic notation of the grade for the course recorded by an instructor.
5. a recommendation of a professor that is kept in the professor's file only and not shared with anyone.
6. a and b only
7. a, b, and c only
8. Your boss asks you what information you can release over the phone. You tell her that, without the student's written permission, you may only release “directory information”. You further explain that if a student has requested that directory information be withheld, you may not release any information about that student.
9. A department head requested to see the advising records in the college advising office for two education majors. He was requesting this information to determine the students' fitness to become teachers. The adviser refused to provide the information, claiming that the information in the files was "privileged." The adviser was correct in refusing to provide the information.
10. This morning an FBI agent visited the manager of food services and asked to see the work records of a food service employee who was hired under a work-study contract. Under FERPA, the manager of food services is permitted to release the records.
11. An officer from a police department in a nearby town calls. The officer states that they have arrested a person who claims to be a student at your college. He is calling to verify this. You know that this police department has the policy of releasing students for minor infractions (which is what is involved in this case) if it can be verified that the person is a student. You check your records and find that this person is a student. However, there is a signed statement from the student that he wants no information on him released. You should tell the officer that you have no record of the person in question.
12. If the University invokes the health & safety exception and releases information from a student's educational record without consent, the university must document the emergency to include:
13. the nature of the threat
14. the records that were released
15. the individuals to whom the records were released
16. all of the above
17. none of the above
18. A Student's request for confidentiality is in effect for how long?
19. The current semester
20. the current academic year
21. indefinitely until the student removes it in writing
22. until the student graduates or leaves the university
23. Student’s written consent to release educational records must contain:
24. the records to be released
25. the purpose
26. the individual(s) to whom the records may be released
27. student signature and date
28. all of the above
29. Peer grading is prohibited by FERPA.
30. You have a letter of recommendation supposedly from a student’s adviser from a previous institution. You have reason to believe that the letter has been forged. You may return the letter to the alleged creator for verification without the student’s consent.
31. A former Penn State student has transferred to another University and is now enrolled there. A change was made to the student’s Penn State record after that record was sent to the new university. You may send the updated record to the new university without the student’s consent.
32. A student who is a high school junior enrolls in a Penn State course during the summer. You are permitted to release the student’s grade to her parents since she is under the age of 18.
33. A student telephones your office and tells you that his father needs a copy of his grades from last semester for insurance purposes. The student indicates that his father will stop by your office this afternoon to pick up a copy of the grade report. You are permitted to provide this information to the student’s father.
34. A person wants to interview you as part of a pre-employment background check on a former student. Which of the following questions may you answer without the student’s consent?
35. What grade did the student receive in your class?
36. In your experience with the student, did you find her to be reliable and truthful?
37. What was the student’s grade point average at the time of graduation?
38. What courses did the student take during their senior year?
39. None of the above.
40. A student in the Smeal College of Business applied for a part-time job in your spouse’s accounting firm. Your spouse asks you to verify the student’s grade point average, which appears on the resume that the student included with his job application. You explain to your spouse that this does not constitute a “legitimate educational interest” and that it is not appropriate for you to access this information.
41. You hear a faculty member talking about a specific student. You know the student and her family. You may access the student’s records to see how she is progressing academically.
42. An unauthorized person retrieves information about students from a computer that was left unattended. This is permissible because FERPA does not apply to information stored in a computer database.
43. A student has asked you to write a letter of recommendation for him for graduate school. This request was made during a telephone conversation. You may include the student’s course grade and GPA in this letter.