



## **STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS & ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

This information is available as a PDF (<http://www.vandercook.edu/assets/1/7/Privacy.pdf>) linked from the [Consumer Information Disclosures](#) page.

### **Privacy Rights & Access to Educational Records**

VanderCook adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which establishes the privacy rights of parents and candidates with regard to academic records. Candidates may review all official records, files and data related to them, and may challenge the accuracy of the contents of such records. Further, the act prohibits colleges and universities from releasing personally identifiable information about candidates without their prior written consent.

VanderCook respects the right to privacy of its candidates, and acknowledges its responsibility to maintain confidentiality of personally identifiable educational records. The following policies and procedures will be followed in regard to such records.

#### **Information Disclosure**

VanderCook reserves the right to release, at its own discretion, the following items of directory information about any candidate registered for at least one credit hour during the academic year in which such directory information is provided. Within three weeks after the close of registration, the candidate may file a written request with the registrar to withhold any item of directory information the candidate does not wish released. Such information includes:

- Name and photo of candidate;
- Date and place of birth;
- Dates of attendance at VanderCook;
- Local address, phone number and email address;
- Permanent address and phone number;
- Position(s) held, place(s) of employment and extension number(s) of candidates employed by VanderCook;
- Department of specialization and educational level (undergraduate candidate, graduate candidate or non-degree-seeking student) and prior institution most recently attended;
- Membership in officially recognized campus organizations and offices held in such organizations; and
- Degree(s) earned and any special award(s) or recognition(s) received.

Such information, available from educational records kept by VanderCook, may also be released concerning former candidates relative to the time during which they were registered at VanderCook.

#### **Accessibility of Educational Records**

Candidate records are kept physically and electronically at VanderCook. Physical files are retained with the appropriate dean. Upon the candidate's graduation and receipt of diploma, the physical files are repositied with the registrar. Electronic records for all current and former candidates, including contact information and grade reports, are maintained in a secure content-management database that is accessible to the deans, registrar and select administration members only. At no time are candidates or candidate-workers permitted to access this database.

VanderCook will not disclose any personally identifiable information other than directory information from the educational records of a candidate without their prior written consent. Personally identifiable information will only be disclosed in the following instances:

- To school officials, including teachers, within the VanderCook community who have a legitimate educational interest.
- To officials of another school at which the candidate intends to enroll, provided an attempt to notify the candidate of the intended disclosure prior to submission of such information has been documented.
- To certain authorized representatives of federal and state agencies who require such information to carry out lawful functions in connection with the candidate's application for or receipt of financial aid.
- To organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of educational agencies or institutions, provided these studies are conducted in a manner that will guarantee the anonymity of candidates, and that the information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose for which it was requested.
  - To accrediting organizations in order to fulfill accreditation requirements.
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
  - To appropriate parties in health or safety emergencies.
  - To parents of dependent VanderCook candidates, as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

For the purposes of this section, all enrolled candidates shall be considered to be independent of their parents. Any parent may challenge this assumption by presentation of evidence that the candidate does qualify as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

For the purposes of this section, "school officials" shall include members of VanderCook's faculty and administrative staff with a legitimate educational interest in such records, and other personnel whose duties involve establishment and maintenance of such records and / or the development of institutional reports.

For the purposes of this section, "legitimate educational interest" shall be defined as a direct involvement in establishing or reviewing a candidate's academic record or performance for academic purposes.

Current and former candidates of VanderCook shall be granted access to all of their personally identifiable educational records originated at or submitted to VanderCook in connection with their admission, employment or the granting of financial assistance, with the following exceptions:

- Notes or records of instructors, advisors or counselors that would not otherwise be shown to any other individual except another faculty member or advisor.
- For records involving other individuals (e.g., course grade lists), only the portion(s) applicable to the respective candidate will be disclosed.
- Records or statements submitted by individuals within or outside VanderCook and other educational institutions or agencies under the assumption of confidentiality in connection with the admission, employment or provision of financial assistance (including financial statements provided by parents for purposes of supporting the candidate's application for financial aid).
  - Letters of recommendation for which the candidate has signed a waiver of the right to inspect the letter.
  - Records of medical or psychological tests or treatment. In such cases, the candidate retains the right to a professional explanation of information in such records, and to request the records be referred to another qualified professional of the candidate's choice.

For records originating at VanderCook, any person or organization having the right of access to any educational record may also obtain a copy of that record for a reasonable fee.

In general, VanderCook will not provide copies of any items in a candidate's educational record that have been submitted by outside individuals or organizations to anyone other than authorized faculty and / or staff at

VanderCook. Such copies should be requested from the source from which the record originated. An exception can be made in instances when the candidate can demonstrate that the original record has been lost, destroyed or is otherwise unavailable (e.g., international candidates, candidates from schools no longer in existence, the death of a person from whom a reference was obtained, etc.).

A cumulative record of all individuals or organizations (other than the individual candidate and authorized faculty and staff at VanderCook) that are granted access to and / or copies of a specific educational record will be maintained along with that record. Upon request, a candidate may inspect the cumulative list of all who have been granted access to his or her educational record. The right to inspect educational records does not apply to applicants for admission until such time as the applicant has been admitted to and completed registration at VanderCook.

Current and former candidates of VanderCook may make an appointment to inspect individual educational records during regular office hours. Candidates have the right to petition to amend educational records. If a petition is denied, the candidate has the right to request a hearing. Questions or complaints regarding alleged violation of rights of candidates under FERPA may be submitted in writing within 180 days to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.