

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS AND ACCESS TO RECORDS (FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT)

College of the Canyons maintains student records to ensure the privacy of all such records in accordance with statutes set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. By law, the college shall not permit access to or release of records or information to outside agencies without an educational interest unless the College obtains the student's written permission.

This statute applies regardless of the student's age. Once a student under the age of 18 is admitted, they are considered a college student and this law applies to their records.

The one area of student records that can be released is called "Directory Information." Directory information is defined as: student's name, current enrollment status, dates of attendance, major field of study, degrees and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and the most recent public or private school attended by the student. The College will include the notation of expulsion on the student's transcript. Directory information will only be blocked from release by written request of the student. Students may file a written release to block such information in the Admissions & Records office.

The College, at its discretion, may limit or deny the release of student directory information to public or private persons or organizations based on the best interests of the students. In accordance with the privacy act, the College also has the right to release students' records to institutions and agencies on the basis of educational interest. These are examples of situations where records would be released on the basis of educational interest: college officials, state and federal educational and auditing officers, requests in connection with the application for or receipt of financial aid, subpoenas, recovery services and court orders.

Any student has the right to inspect and review his or her student records, within five days of making an official request. The student may challenge the accuracy of the record or the appropriateness of its retention. Records maintained under this statute include, but are not limited to information regarding: college admission, registration, and academic history, official transcripts from other schools and colleges, career, student benefits or services, extra-curricular activities, counseling and guidance, discipline or matters related to student conduct and any other information the college feels appropriate.

All official transcripts from other schools and colleges become property of the College upon receipt and photocopies are not released. The College makes a reasonable charge for furnishing copies of any student record, except for the normal College procedures that apply to transcript requests. Particular questions with respect to students' rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 should be directed to the Director of Admissions & Records.

As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education's FERPA regulations expand the circumstances under which your education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records — including your Social Security Number, grades, or other private information — may be accessed without your consent. First, the U.S. Comptroller

General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities ("Federal and State Authorities") may allow access to your records and PII without your consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is "principally engaged in the provision of education," such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution. Second, Federal and State Authorities may allow access to your education records and PII without your consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when we object to or do not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive your PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities. In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without your consent PII from your education records, and they may track your participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about you that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Santa Clarita Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, pregnancy, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected basis in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the Sex Equity in Education Act, and Assembly Bill 803 of 1977. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the College's programs and activities, including vocational education.

Inquiries regarding the equal opportunity policies, the filing of complaints, or to request a copy of the procedures covering discrimination complaints may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resources, University Center (UCEN) Room 360, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; telephone (661) 362-3424. The college recognizes its obligation to provide overall program accessibility throughout the college for disabled persons. Contact the DSP&S Director to obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons. Inquiries regarding Federal laws and regulations concerning nondiscrimination in education or the District's compliance with those provisions may also be directed to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 509F, HHH Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20201.