

College Student and Parent Communication Laws

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of students' educational records. FERPA applies to all public and private schools, as well as state and local education agencies that receive US Department of Education funds.

For children under the age of 18, Parents have the right to access their children's education records, request changes, and control the disclosure of personal information.

When a student turns 18 or starts attending postsecondary school, they become an "eligible student" and their rights take over.

The US Department of Education (DOE) enforces FERPA violations.

John Melvin University (JMU) Student and Parent Communication Policies

At JMU, we are committed to preparing our students for success in their future careers, personal lives, and roles as responsible citizens. An essential part of this preparation involves fostering independence and personal responsibility. To achieve this, we must establish clear parental involvement and communication boundaries.

As a JMU student, you are expected to handle your academic and extracurricular affairs independently, just as you would in a professional workplace. This means:

If you have concerns about coursework, grades, or other academic matters, you should schedule appointments directly with your professors or relevant administrators.

For student-athletes, any questions or issues related to athletics (e.g., playing time, schedules, team rules, or depth chart decisions) should be addressed by you, the student, directly with your coach.

Parents should not contact coaches, professors, or administrators on behalf of students for these matters.

We understand that parents may be financially supporting their students' education. In such cases, parents may communicate with the finance department solely regarding tuition payment issues. However, financial support does not entitle parents to intervene in academic or athletic matters.

Please note: *If a parent contacts a coach or administrator to complain about athletic issues, the student may face immediate suspension and possible removal from the program. This policy is in place to maintain the integrity of our educational and athletic programs and to prepare students for the realities of adult life.*

At JMU, we believe that by adhering to these policies, we are providing our students with valuable life skills that will serve them well beyond their college years. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us create an environment that promotes student growth, independence, and success.