

Examples of Sensitive Student Data

Sensitive -- Information whose access must be guarded due to proprietary, ethical, or privacy considerations. This classification applies even though there may not be a civil statute requiring this protection.

Specific Examples of Sensitive Student Data Include:

- **PUID:** PUID is a number that should have no value to anyone outside Purdue University. It isn't considered to be at the same level of security as SSN, but it IS considered to be sensitive information. The PUID alone cannot be used to gain access to confidential information, such as grades. However, when used with the appropriate authentication credentials, it can provide access to grades as well as other confidential information.

The long-term goal for the PUID is to be part of a more sophisticated security system through which anyone with a relationship with Purdue will prove their identity and be granted privileges based on an authentication of their identity. Privileges might include computer accounts, access to web sites containing course materials, library access, or identification card rights, to mention a few. In order to protect this access, we need to make every effort to keep the student's PUID limited to the student only. (Grades can't be posted using PUID, nor can any other information that would result in the student being able to be identified by someone else).

- **Electronic Signatures**
- **Point of Sale Transactions:** Includes meal plan usage, Dining Dollar and Boiler Express account activity. Contains product information and other transactional detail for Optim cash operation locations. i.e. dining rooms, residence hall front desks, PMU, mini-marts and grills, vending machines, BoilerCopyMaker, and BoilerMailRoom
- **Paper Admissions Applications:** Applicant information is entered into the Student Information system. This information is used to make an admissions decision and is the first step in creating a student's educational/academic record should s/he enroll at Purdue. While admissions data is not covered under FERPA, it is considered sensitive information and it treated as such. The information is stored in non-public areas and access to it is guarded.
- **Electronic Admissions Applications:** Students view and interact with static and dynamic web pages stored on a secured web server. Students are allowed to save their electronic application and are given access to that application via access controls. Once an electronic application is submitted student access to the application is not available. Web applications are extracted and loaded to the Student Information system and a printed copy of the application is generated.
- **Prospective Student Contact:** Information collected on contact cards or received from outside vendors is entered into the Student Contact System (SCS). This information is used, in an electronic format, for such things as sending information about Purdue schools, financial aid information and invitations to recruitment events to prospective students. Once the data is entered from the contact cards, the cards are recycled and destroyed.
- **Major Program of Study**
- **Decision Letters**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Date of Birth**