

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

March 16, 2015

Lucas Donnelley  


Re: FOIA 15-178

Dear Mr. Donnelley:

I am responding to your request dated March 9, 2015, under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, in which you request:

"I am an individual requesting the grade records of the course "MATH 234." I would like to know the grade distribution (A, A-, B+, B, etc.), the professor that taught the course, and the amount of students that took the course. If possible, I am particularly interested in the Online, Summer Term version of this course. "

The grade distributions for MATH 234 dating back to 2005 are available and attached. These are public documents numbering 2 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/7(1)(a) that exempts from disclosure "Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing adopted under federal or State law." Specifically, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g) protects the privacy of student education records and prohibits the release of any information from a student's education record without the consent of the eligible student. In this case, grade distributions are not displayed when a section has low enrollment or when all students in the class have the same grade. Because of the low enrollment in those classes or because all the students in a class received the same grade, the grade data could identify a student. Thus, such information was not provided to you as it would not only violate FERPA, but it would also be invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c) of the Act. In addition, teaching assistant names may have a value of "N/A" if the TA has requested anonymity under FERPA. Again, release of such information would both violate FERPA and be an invasion of personal privacy.

As the Excel file type allows for editing of the included data, we ask that prior to opening the files you accept responsibility for accurate dissemination of this information and agree that no manipulation of the file that results in falsification of the information will occur.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at the phone number below and she will provide you with all necessary details.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at

217-782-1396, by email to [publicaccess@atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us), or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy  
Executive Director  
and Chief Records Officer