

Standard Practice Guide Policies

Use and Release of Donor and Alumni Information

602.05

Applies to: All Departments and Units of the University

I. Policy

This policy governs the use and release of all information about alumni and donors of the University of Michigan. Such information is considered institutional data as defined in Standard Practice Guide 601.12 “Institutional Data Resource Management Policy”. The University of Michigan owns this information as a University asset and the Vice President for Development is responsible for maintaining it (Regents Bylaw 2.09). This policy OUD is applicable to all campuses and facilities of the University of Michigan.

The policy is intended to allow development personnel, alumni relations' personnel, and certain others to use information about our alumni and donors while ensuring that their privacy is protected to the fullest extent permitted by law. The University's primary source of information about donors and alumni is the Donor and Alumni Relationship Tool (DART). Each unit is responsible for ensuring that its designated volunteers use the information in the appropriate manner for its authorized function or activity and that the volunteers understand their responsibility to use the information only for University purposes and maintain the confidentiality of the information pursuant to these guidelines. (DART) and all personnel who want to communicate with donors and alumni for development and alumni relations purposes must use it, or approved tools which integrate with it.

II. Donor Related Information

A. GENERAL STATEMENT. Alumni information, other than name, degrees, schools and years (student information) will not be used or released except as permitted under this policy or as required by law.

B. DEFINITION OF DONOR INFORMATION. Donor information is defined as the name, any address, telephone number, gift history, ratings or any other information

pertaining to a donor or potential donor to the University of Michigan, which is gathered by the Office of University Development (“OUD”), any college, school or unit within the University of Michigan, or any other University employee for development and related purposes.

- C. ACCESS AND USE OF DONOR INFORMATION. Only University employees who are authorized by OUD and who have a need to know in order to perform an authorized University function or activity may access donor information. Donor information shall be used solely for the University of Michigan’s development purposes in accordance with applicable policies.
1. Units may release limited information to volunteers they designate to use information for peer screening, cultivation and stewardship activities. For Policy for Sharing Donor Information with Non-Development Professionals, contact OUD.
 2. Each unit is responsible for ensuring that its designated volunteers use and distribute the information in the appropriate manner for its authorized function or activity and that the volunteers understand their responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of the information pursuant to these guidelines.
- D. REQUESTS FOR DONOR INFORMATION. Any requests for donor information by any persons or entities not authorized to receive such information should be directed to OUD or the Freedom of Information Office for handling, except for donors who donate in memory or in honor of someone. The names and addresses of donors who donate in memory or in honor of someone may be released to appropriate family members of that person memorialized or honored.

III. Alumni Related Information

- A. GENERAL STATEMENT. Alumni information, other than name, degrees, schools and years (student information) will not be used or released except as permitted under this policy or as required by law.
- B. DEFINITION OF ALUMNI INFORMATION. Alumni information is defined as the names, any addresses, telephone numbers or any other information pertaining to alumni of the University of Michigan, which is gathered after the individuals are no longer enrolled as students.¹
- C. ACCESS AND USE OF ALUMNI INFORMATION. Only University employees who have a need to know in order to perform an authorized University function or activity may access alumni information. Alumni information will be used for alumni relations, development and research purposes in accordance with applicable policies.

1. Units may release information to volunteers they designate to use information for such purposes as planning reunions, assisting alumni clubs, and the like.
2. Each unit is responsible for ensuring that its designated volunteers use and distribute the information in the appropriate manner for its authorized function or activity and that the volunteers understand their responsibility to use the information only for University purposes and maintain the confidentiality of the information pursuant to these guidelines.

D. RELEASE OF ALUMNI INFORMATION WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF ALUMNI.

OULD will perform the following functions with respect to requests for alumni information without prior permission of the alumni:

1. Forward Requests. Forward requests from alumni seeking the address of other alumni².
2. Associated Organizations. Alumni information may be released to organizations associated with the University, but not under Regental control, only if the organization certifies in writing that:
 - A. It will use the information only in an activity that will directly serve a function of the University. For student-related organizations, the Vice President for Student Affairs or his or her designee must certify that the use of the requested alumni information will serve a University function. OUD will have the final authority to determine if an activity will directly serve a function of the University.
 - B. It will not use the information for any other purpose.
 - C. It will not release or disclose the information to any third party. It will not release the information to a person affiliated with the organization unless that person has a need to know and that person agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the information pursuant to these guidelines.
3. Alumni Directories. OUD may provide alumni information to University of Michigan schools, colleges and units wishing to publish an alumni directory pursuant to the policy on Alumni Directories (SPG 602.06 (/policy/602.06)).

E. RELEASE OF ALUMNI INFORMATION WITH PRIOR PERMISSION OF ALUMNI. Alumni information may be released in the following circumstances only with the prior written permission of individual alumni. Written permission includes indicators used by online alumni directories and updated by the alumni themselves signifying publication is acceptable.

1. Shared Alumni. When other institutions of higher education request information on alumni who have degrees from the University of Michigan and the requesting educational institution.

2. Other Alumni. At the request of other alumni.
3. Recruiting Firms. Requests from management recruiting firms will be forwarded to the appropriate unit placement office for service as authorized by its alumni clients.

F. RELEASE OF ALUMNI INFORMATION UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. Alumni information may be released under the following circumstances.

1. Confirming Degrees. Requests from prospective employers and others should be directed to the Office of the Registrar.
2. Law Enforcement Agencies. Requests from law enforcement agencies for alumni information should be directed to the Department of Public Safety.
3. Subpoena Or Court Order. Alumni information will be released pursuant to court order or lawfully issued subpoena. Questions regarding court orders and subpoenas should be directed to the Office of the General Counsel.
4. All Other Requests. All other requests for alumni information from persons or entities should be directed to ARO or the Freedom of Information Office, as appropriate.

IV. Responsibility for Implementation and Compliance

In accordance with Standard Practice Guide 601.12 "Institutional Data Resource Management Policy," University Deans and Directors are responsible for implementing this policy and the Vice President for Development is responsible for ensuring compliance with it. These authorities must initiate corrective action with the proper authorities of the University if it is needed. OUD will implement data management practices in accordance with the Data Administration Guidelines for Institutional Data Resources.

V. Misuse of Information

1. In accordance with Standard Practice Guide 601.07 "Responsible Use of Information Resources", the University characterizes certain activities as unethical and unacceptable. With respect to this policy, such activities include, but are not limited to, using or releasing donor and alumni information:
 1. To solicit for personal purposes or gain, or for institutions not affiliated with the University without authorization;
 2. To stalk and/or harass;
 3. To sell, trade, exchange, give, etc. such information to people or institutions not affiliated with the University without authorization;
 4. To store or transmit donor or alumni information on personally owned devices or via personally maintained services that are not managed by the University

without proper authorization;

5. To create any type of database, spreadsheet, report, etc. outside of DART that mirrors or uses DART information but is not integrated with DART, unless approved by the dean or director of the appropriate unit and the OUD;
 6. To contact and/or solicit donors, alumni, or parents without following the proper development procedures and permissions.
2. All University employees and affiliates authorized by OUD must access or maintain University-owned sensitive data on personally-owned devices in accordance with SPG 601.33, "Security of Personally Owned Devices that Access or Maintain Sensitive Institutional Data."
 3. Disciplinary action may include denial of future access to donor and alumni information, non-reappointment, discharge, dismissal, and-or legal action.

VI. REFERENCES

Standard Practice Guide 601.07 - "Responsible Use of Information Resources"
Standard Practice Guide 601.12 - "Institutional Data Resource Management Policy"
Standard Practice Guide 601.19 - "Identity Misrepresentation"
Standard Practice Guide 601.25 - "Information Security Incident Reporting Policy"
Standard Practice Guide 601.27 - "Information Security Policy"
Standard Practice Guide 601.33 - "Security of Personally Owned Devices that Access or Maintain Sensitive Institutional Data"
Policy for Sharing Donor Information with Non-Development Professionals – See DevNet or contact OUD

¹ Student records are subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The Office of the Registrar is responsible for implementing University policy on access to student records.

² OUD reserves the right to deny or charge a fee for a voluminous or unreasonable request.

File Attachments

Printable PDF of SPG 602.05, Use and Release of Donor and Alumni Information
(<http://www.spg.umich.edu/sites/default/files/601x05.pdf>)

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Related Policies:

Alumni Directories (</policy/602.06>)

Identity Misrepresentation (</policy/601.19>)

Information Security Incident Reporting (</policy/601.25>)

Information Security Policy (</policy/601.27>)

Institutional Data Resource Management Policy (</policy/601.12>)

Responsible Use of Information Resources (</policy/601.07>)

Security of Personally Owned Devices That Access or Maintain Sensitive Institutional Data (</policy/601.33>)

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