

European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy Notice

Southern Methodist University (“SMU” or the “University”) respects your privacy and is committed to protecting the security and confidentiality of the information you provide the University.

The European Union (“EU”) General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) establishes how organizations collect, use, disclose, and safeguard the personal data of individuals located in the EU and European Economic Area (“EEA”). SMU is committed to complying with the GDPR and upholding the rights it provides to EU and EEA data subjects.

This Privacy Notice explains how SMU collects, uses, processes, stores, and discloses personal information provided by individuals located in the EU/EEA. It also describes the rights available to such individuals under applicable data protection laws.

By submitting information to SMU, or by accessing and using the University’s websites, applications, and other services, you acknowledge that your personal information will be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with this Privacy Notice.

This Privacy Notice supplements SMU’s [Privacy Statement](#) and [Policy 8.2 Information Security](#). Southern Methodist University is the data controller responsible for the processing of personal data described in this Privacy Notice.

Definitions

“Personal Data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person.

“Information” means all personal data, not including Sensitive Information, concerning a natural person, created by or provided to SMU by or about an Information Provider.

““Special Categories of Personal Data” means information about an Information Provider’s race, gender, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, health data and criminal convictions.

Use of Information

SMU may collect, use, process, and disclose Personal Data and Special Categories of Personal data in order to administer academic programs, manage employment relationships, conduct research, comply with legal obligations, and support the University’s educational, operational, and institutional activities.

The following are categories of individuals whose information SMU may process and examples of the purposes for which the information may be used:

1. Prospective Students, Admitted and Enrolled Students
 - a. Register or enroll, provide and administer housing to students, provide and administer financial aid, manage a student account, academic advising, develop

education programs, track academic progress, recruitment, regulatory reporting, auditing, accreditation

2. Faculty and Staff
 - a. Applicants for employment, enter into or administer an employment relationship with SMU
3. Individuals involved in research
 - a. Exercise of scientific, historical research, or statistical purposes
4. Alumni, donors, and other community members
 - a. Management of relationship and engagement with SMU
5. Contractors and vendors
 - a. Parties who have entered into contracts with SMU to perform functions on behalf of SMU, subject to obligations of confidentiality
6. Visitors

Third Party Use of Sensitive Information

- a. Consent: We may disclose Sensitive Information and other Information if we have your consent to do so.
- b. Emergency Circumstances: We may share your Information, and Sensitive Information when necessary to protect your interests and you are physically or legally incapable of providing consent.
- c. Employment Necessity: We may share your Sensitive Information when necessary for administering benefits in accordance with applicable law and subject to the imposition of appropriate safeguards to prevent further unauthorized disclosure.
- d. Charitable Organizations: We may share your Information with other not-for-profit organizations in connection with charitable giving subject to the imposition of appropriate safeguards to prevent further unauthorized disclosure.
- e. Public Information: We may share your Information and Sensitive Information if you have manifestly made it public.
- f. Archiving: We may share your Information and Sensitive Information for archiving purposes in the public interest, and for historical research, and statistical purposes.
- g. Performance of a Contract: We may share your Information when necessary to administer a contract you have with the University.
- h. Legal Obligation: We may share your Information when the disclosure is required or permitted by international, federal, or state laws and regulations.
- i. Service Providers: We use third parties who have entered into a contract with the University to support the administration of University operations and policies. In such cases, we share your Information with such third parties subject to the imposition of appropriate safeguards to prevent further unauthorized disclosure.

- j. **Affiliated Programs:** We may share your Information with parties that are affiliated with the University for the purpose of contacting you about goods, services, charitable giving or experiences that may be of interest to you.
- k. **De-Identified and Aggregate Information:** We may use and disclose Information in de-identified or aggregate form without limitation.

Security

SMU implements appropriate technical and organizational security measures to protect your information when you transmit it to SMU and when we store it on our information technology systems.

Cookies and Other Technology

SMU's use of cookies and other data from information technology can be found [here](#).

Retention and Destruction of Your Information

Your information will be retained by SMU in accordance with applicable international, state, or federal laws. Your information will generally be destroyed upon your request unless applicable law requires retention for a specified period, or unless there is a legitimate basis for retaining the information that is recognized under the GDPR. Any destruction of records will be carried out in a manner appropriate to preserve the confidentiality of the information, taking into account its sensitivity, value, and importance to SMU.

Please note that certain data may be considered part of a student's "Permanent Record" and will therefore be securely maintained indefinitely. Additional information about records retention may be found in [Policy 1.25: Records Retention Policy](#).

Your Rights

Individuals in the EU/EEA have the following rights in accordance with all applicable laws and subject to the limitations in the GDPR:

- a. Right to access
- b. Right to rectify
- c. Right to erasure
- d. Right to restrict processing
- e. Right to object to processing
- f. Right to data portability

For data subjects outside the EU/EEA and data that was not collected within the EU/EEA, the erasure of your information shall be subject to the retention periods of applicable federal and state laws and regulations. If you have provided consent to the use of your information, you have the right to withdraw consent without affecting the lawfulness of SMU's use of the information prior to receipt of your request.

Information created in the EU/EEA may be transferred to and processed in the United States where SMU operates. Where personal data is transferred outside the EU/EEA, SMU will implement appropriate safeguards consistent with applicable data protection laws.

You may exercise these rights by contacting the University's primary GDPR contact. You will be asked to verify your identity, and we will respond to your request within a reasonable timeframe.

If you believe that the University has not complied with the applicable provisions of the GDPR, you have the right to file a complaint with the appropriate supervisory authority in the EU/EEA.

Contact

For the purposes of GDPR, SMU has designated the Chief Information Security Officer as the primary contact for GDPR-Related requests.

Corrina Taylor
Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Information Technology
Office of Information Technology
5401 N. Central Expressway 325E
PO Box 750262
Dallas TX 75275-0262
(214) 768-7196
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We may change or update this notice at any time. Your continued use of SMU's websites and third-party applications after any change or update indicates your acceptance of these changes or updates.

Notice last updated: August 21, 2026