

Like many other areas of the law, educational institutions face a dizzying array of laws, regulations, and other requirements associated with privacy and data security. Unlike most other areas of the law, however, the requirements of privacy and data security law can be based on the state or country an applicant or student is from, the type of information collected, and how that information is used and shared. The purpose of this article is to provide readers with an overview of the state, national, and international laws and regulations that affect the operations of colleges and universities. It will cover the major U.S. sectoral laws and regulations, U.S. state data breach notification laws, security requirements applicable to the use of credit cards, and certain international considerations. The article concludes with general guidelines for attempting to comply with both domestic and international data protection laws.