

# The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa, AL • Public School



The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

*Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.*

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

## OVERALL RANK

89 

/257

 -20 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D -

 D - FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2025

## Overview

The University of Alabama ranks 89 of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, a D- speech climate grade. A five-point penalty dragged its score down after administrators initially denied recognition to a Young Americans for Freedom chapter when the group refused to adopt school-required language in its constitution. The University of Alabama system officially adopted a statement on institutional neutrality — which applies to the Tuscaloosa campus. Its policies still earn them a “yellow light” Spotlight rating.

Alabama places in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” suggesting students trust the administration to protect free speech at a greater rate than most schools.

Alabama could improve by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and by applying viewpoint-neutral criteria for approving and funding student organizations.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow 

FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

Visit our website: <https://rankings.thefire.org/> for more information.

## HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



55% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.75:1

There are roughly 1.75 conservative students for every one liberal student.

### Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B -

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

C -

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D -

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D -

▼ DECREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0