

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ • 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

23 ▲
/257

▲ -9 FROM 2024

GRADE

C-

▲ D+ FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

1 FROM 2025

Overview

Arizona State University ranks 23 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 70, earning a C- speech climate grade. The university earns a “green light” Spotlight rating. After suspending a student group in 2024 for a controversial social media post, ASU improved in 2025 when it declined to sanction College Republicans United for similar conduct.

ASU places in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance” and in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” reflecting greater confidence in the administration’s stance on expression compared to other schools. But it ranks in the bottom 50 for “Openness” and for “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating that controversial dialogue remains fragile.

ASU could boost its standing by adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality, and educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct.

Spotlight Rating

Green



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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



71% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



41% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.66:1

There are roughly 2.66 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

1