

Arkansas State University

Jonesboro, AR • 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

87 ▲
/257

▲ -29 FROM 2024

GRADE

D -

— D- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Arkansas State University ranks 87 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. It earns a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade. The university fell 29 places from last year, and its policies still earn a “yellow light” Spotlight rating.

Arkansas State places in the top 25 for both “Disruptive Conduct” and “Political Tolerance,” and in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas.” Yet Arkansas State also ranks in the bottom 50 for “Openness,” indicating that many topics remain difficult to broach in class or social settings.

Arkansas State could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopting a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement, and adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



63% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



23% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.18:1

There are roughly 1.18 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O