

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA • 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

189 ▼

/257

▼ 31 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

6

2 FROM 2025

Overview

University of California, Los Angeles ranks 189 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 55 and an F speech climate grade. New penalties from 2025 censorship cases involving a graduate-led public-health course and a student wildfire website kept its score low. The school earns a “green light” Spotlight rating but has yet to adopt the Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

UCLA places in the top 50 for “Self-Censorship,” indicating relatively few feel compelled to keep quiet. That lone strength is offset by serious weaknesses: the university ranks in the bottom 25 for both “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Administrative Support,” and in the bottom 50 for “Political Tolerance.”

UCLA could improve by adopting a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement and making a commitment to institutional neutrality.

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.



79% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.83:1

There are roughly 6.83 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

F

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

2

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

3