

Pomona College

Claremont, CA • Private 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

247 ▲

/257

▲ -5 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Pomona College ranks 247 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 49 and an F speech climate grade. This marks the fourth straight year Pomona has landed in failing territory, and its continuing “yellow light” Spotlight rating keeps a consistent policy penalty on the books.

Students offer a mixed picture. Pomona places in the top 25 for “Openness,” indicating relative ease discussing many controversial topics. At the same time, the college ranks in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance,” “Disruptive Conduct,” and “Administrative Support,” reflecting low willingness to host opposing speakers, higher acceptance of shout-downs, and scant confidence in administrators.

Pomona 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



50% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



83% 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.

29.63:1

There are roughly 29.63 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

C-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1