

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO • 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

135 ▲

/257

▲ 41 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Colorado College ranks 135 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The college posts a score of 57 and a F speech climate grade, yet it climbed 41 places compared with last year. The written policies remain stuck at a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, and the school has not adopted the Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

Survey results paint a mixed picture. Colorado College places in the top 25 on “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling broad rejection of tactics like shouting down speakers, and it ranks in the top 50 for “Openness,” suggesting comparatively few topics feel off-limits. At the same time, the college lands in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance,” indicating reluctance to host controversial speakers from across the political spectrum.

To foster a healthier climate, the administration should revise its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement, and adopt 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.

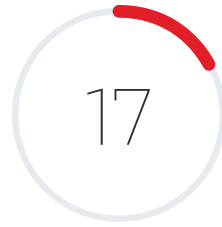
HIGHLIGHTS



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



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



17% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

11.88:1

There are roughly 11.88 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

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0