

Yale University

New Haven, CT • 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

58 ▲
/257

▲ 97 FROM 2024

GRADE

D —

▼ F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Yale University ranks 58 of 257 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, with a score of 62 and a D- speech climate grade. The university climbed 97 places and added 6 points since last year. This jump coincided with Yale's decision to adopt a statement on institutional neutrality, which delivered a 3-point bonus.

Students report a mixed atmosphere. Yale places in the top 25 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas" and in the top 50 for both "Openness" and "Self-Censorship." Yet the school still earns a "yellow light" Spotlight rating that drags down its overall score.

Yale could build on this progress by revising its speech policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement.

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



33% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



78% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.98:1

There are roughly 5.98 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O