

Georgetown University

Washington, DC • 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

129 ▲

/257

▲ 111 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

1 FROM 2025

Overview

Georgetown University ranks 129 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57, an F speech climate grade. The university jumped 111 places and gained 7 points since last year, thanks in part to upgrading its Spotlight rating from “red light” to “yellow light.” A postponed talk by former Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine member Ribhi Karajah cost Georgetown a small penalty.

Georgetown places in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” suggesting more students speak their minds in class compared to other schools. At the same time, no other area places in the top 50, and the campus continues to see deplatforming attempts that undermine open dialogue.

Georgetown could make meaningful progress by revising its remaining restrictive speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and by 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.

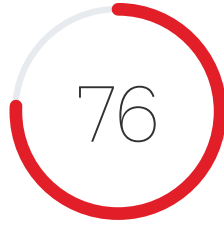
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@thefire.org.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



37% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% 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.

5.72:1

There are roughly 5.72 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

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

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

3