

Emory University

Atlanta, GA • 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

67 ▲
/257

▲ 87 FROM 2024

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2025

Overview

Emory University ranks 67 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61, rebounding 87 places and lifting its overall grade to a D-. The rise coincided with reduced penalties for free speech controversies in prior years.

Policy-wise, Emory earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, yet student perceptions remain bleak. The university places in the bottom 25 for both “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Administrative Support,” and in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship.”

Emory could build on its policy strength by publicly adopting the Chicago Statement and an official 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



57% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.16:1

There are roughly 3.16 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+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0