

Georgia State University

Atlanta, GA • Public School



College Free Speech
RANKINGS

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

132 ▼
/257

▼ -87 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Georgia State University ranks 132 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57, an F speech climate grade. GSU has a “yellow light” Spotlight rating.

Student perceptions place GSU among the top 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” suggesting a campus where many feel able to speak openly compared to other schools.

GSU could raise its standing by revising speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating as well as formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality to reaffirm robust free expression principles.

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



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.64:1

There are roughly 5.64 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+

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O