

# The University of Kansas

Lawrence, KS • Public 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

177 ▼

/257

▼ 26 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

2 FROM 2025

## Overview

The University of Kansas ranks 177 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56, an F speech climate grade. The Kansas Board of Regents adopted the Chicago Statement — applying to the flagship institution. Speech controversy penalties weighed on the score after administrators disciplined students who protested the removal of gender-inclusive housing and a student who spoke with the media.

Student perceptions place KU in the bottom 25 nationwide for “Self-Censorship” and in the bottom 50 for “Openness,” suggesting many hesitate to share views and feel constrained when controversial issues arise. No area cracked the top 50.

KU could make meaningful progress by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopting a statement on 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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



44% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.17:1

There are roughly 1.17 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

▼ DECREASE

### OPENNESS

D+

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

### DEPLATFORMINGS

1