

Kansas State University

Manhattan, 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

25 ▼
/257

▼ -7 FROM 2024

GRADE

C-

— C- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Kansas State University ranks 25 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 70, a C- speech climate grade. Strong written policies continue to be a bright spot: K-State earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, and the Kansas Board of Regents adopted the Chicago Statement — applying to Kansas State.

Yet student attitudes paint a mixed picture. While no area lands in the top 50, the university ranks in the bottom 50 on “Disruptive Conduct,” a sharp drop from the top 50 last year.

K-State could bolster its standing by educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct and affirming the university’s 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



47% 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.

2.36:1

There are roughly 2.36 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

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