# Boston College

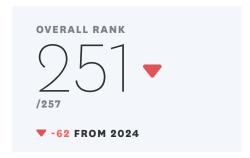
Chestnut Hill, MA • Private School



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.





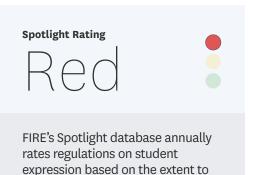


#### Overview

Boston College ranks 251 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 48, an F speech climate grade. A penalty tied to administrators' restrictions on a pro-Palestinian demonstration weighed on this year's score. The university continues to carry a "red light" Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place BC in the bottom 25 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas," "Self-Censorship," and "Administrative Support," and in the bottom 50 for "Openness."

Boston College could improve by revising its written speech codes to earn at least a "yellow light" Spotlight rating and formally endorsing the Chicago Statement.



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: <a href="https://rankings.thefire.org/">https://rankings.thefire.org/</a> for more information.





58% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



68% 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.

1.66:1

There are roughly 1.66 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



## **Chicago Statement** for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



#### **SCORE DEEP DIVE**

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS



**▼** DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT



**▼** DECREASE

**OPENNESS** 



▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP



**SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE** 



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT



STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

POLITICAL TOLERANCE



**DEPLATFORMINGS** 



