

Clark University

Worcester, 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.

OVERALL RANK

194 ▲

/257

▲ 20 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Clark University ranks 194 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 55 and an F speech climate grade. The university still earns a “red light” Spotlight rating, signaling restrictive written policies even though it has adopted both the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place Clark in the top 25 for “Self-Censorship,” indicating students censor themselves at a lower rate than other schools. That lone strength is overshadowed by stark weaknesses: the school is in the bottom 25 for both “Political Tolerance,” meaning many students believe controversial speakers should not be allowed on campus, and “Administrative Support,” showing little faith in leadership’s backing of free expression.

Clark could improve by overhauling its speech codes to secure at least a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and by explicitly assuring students that administrators will protect events featuring ideologically diverse speakers.

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.

Spotlight Rating

Red



FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



55% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

9.78:1

There are roughly 9.78 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O