

# University of Missouri - Columbia

Columbia, MO • 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.



## Overview

University of Missouri ranks 16 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. Mizzou earned a 72 score and a C- speech climate grade, leaping more than 100 places and adding 10 points since last year. A key driver was its shift from a “yellow light” to a “green light” Spotlight rating, which supplied a policy boost and signaled clearer protections for campus expression.

Student perceptions place Mizzou in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance” toward controversial speakers. But the campus is in the bottom 50 for “Openness” when discussing specific hot-button issues. This mix suggests a community willing to host differing viewpoints but hesitant to delve into them.

Mizzou could keep its momentum by adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality and by expanding programs that teach students to openly engage in debate on contentious topics.

### 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](mailto: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.



71% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.49 : 1

There are roughly 1.49 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D -

▼ DECREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B -

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

D +

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D -

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D -

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

NEUTRAL

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0