

Dartmouth College

Hanover, NH • 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

35 ▲
/257

▲ 189 FROM 2024

GRADE

D+

▲ F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Dartmouth College ranks 35 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 68 and is the top-ranked Ivy League school. The college vaulted 189 places after undergoing a major policy revamp to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally adopted institutional neutrality, improvements that outweighed penalties for two speech controversies last year.

Student perceptions place Dartmouth in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance” and in the top 50 on “Disruptive Conduct,” showing comparatively stronger support for letting controversial speakers on campus and little appetite for shout-downs. At the same time, the school ranks in the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating many students hold back in classroom and campus discussions.

Dartmouth has laid the groundwork by amending restrictive policies, but positive cultural change takes time. The university could build on recent gains by adopting the Chicago Statement and continuing to invest in programming that encourages respectful, open debate across contentious issues.

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

Green



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

HIGHLIGHTS



51% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



20% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.33:1

There are roughly 3.33 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1