

The University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM • 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

The University of New Mexico ranks 139 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. Its overall score is 57, an F speech climate grade. UNM still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions point to persistent trouble areas. UNM ranks in the bottom 25 for “Openness” and the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship,” signaling that many hesitate to discuss controversial topics and often keep opinions to themselves.

UNM could make rapid progress by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement to set clearer protections for expressive rights.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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



44% 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.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.29 : 1

There are roughly 2.29 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0