New York University



The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

New York, NY • Private School

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.







Overview

New York University ranks 250 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 48, earning an F for its speech climate. While the school still earns a "yellow light" Spotlight rating, this year's score was hammered by additional penalties after administrators placed sanctions on pro-Palestinian protesters and required them to sign a "Use of Space Agreement" to have sanctions removed.

Students paint a bleak picture: NYU lands in the bottom 25 for "Self-Censorship," "Disruptive Conduct," and "Administrative Support," and in the bottom 50 for both "Comfort Expressing Ideas" and "Political Tolerance." The data show no counterbalancing top-50 strengths, indicating systemic shortcomings across nearly every dimension of campus speech.

NYU could start turning the tide by revising its speech codes to secure a "green light" Spotlight rating, as well as adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.



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.





59% 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.

43% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.81:1

There are roughly 3.81 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

POLITICAL TOLERANCE



DEPLATFORMINGS



