

North Carolina A&T State University

Greensboro, NC • 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.

OVERALL RANK

51
/257

GRADE

D

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

Overview

North Carolina A&T State University ranks 51 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade. The school holds a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has both the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality through the University of North Carolina System adoption, signaling strong written commitments.

Student perceptions place NC A&T first in the nation for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and in the top 50 for “Openness” to discussing specific issues. Those high marks are offset by a bottom-25 showing for “Political Tolerance” and a bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct.”

Strengthening policies to achieve a “green light” Spotlight rating and launching programs that emphasize respectful engagement with controversial speakers would help translate the university’s strong policy language into everyday practice.

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



45% 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.



45% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

12.2:1

There are roughly 12.20 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

C

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

OPENNESS

C

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O