

# University of Dayton

Dayton, OH • 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

224 ▼

/257

▼ -32 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

The University of Dayton ranks 224 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52, an F speech climate grade.

Student perceptions place Dayton in the top 50 on “Disruptive Conduct.” Yet serious problems remain: the university earns a “red light” Spotlight rating. Absent improvements to its written policies, the overall climate continues to lag.

Dayton could make headway by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and by formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

### Spotlight Rating

Red



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



46% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



62% 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.

1.91:1

There are roughly 1.91 conservative students for every one liberal student.

### Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▼ DECREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

### DEPLATFORMINGS

O