

Wright State University

Dayton, OH • 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

49 ▼

/257

▼ 1 FROM 2024

GRADE

D

— D FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Wright State University ranks 49 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63, a D speech climate grade. The university retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating for its written student policies but has adopted the Chicago Statement, signaling at least a formal commitment to free expression.

Student perceptions place Wright State in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” indicating broad support for allowing controversial speakers, and in the top 50 on “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting comparatively lower acceptance of shout-downs or blockades. Even so, middling scores elsewhere keep the overall grade low.

Wright State could raise its standing by revising its speech policies to secure a “green light” Spotlight rating and by adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

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.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.15:1

There are roughly 1.15 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0