

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA • 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

219 ▼

/257

▼ -11 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2025

Overview

The University of Pittsburgh ranks 219 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52, an F speech climate grade. The school still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, and this year’s score reflected a penalty after administrators suspended Students for Justice in Palestine during a conduct investigation.

Students offer a mixed picture: Pitt ranks in the top 50 for “Self-Censorship,” suggesting comparatively fewer students feel compelled to keep silent, yet simultaneously places in the bottom 10 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating widespread unease about speaking up.

Pitt could make immediate strides by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, as well as formally adopting the Chicago Statement and 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



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



75% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.46:1

There are roughly 4.46 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

F

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1