

University of North Texas

Denton, TX • 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

200 ▼

/257

▼ 5 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

5

— 5 FROM 2025

Overview

University of North Texas ranks 200 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 54, an F speech climate grade. Modest penalties tied to cancelled drag shows and the partial removal of artwork last year trimmed its score, and the university still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating while lacking both the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Students paint a conflicted picture: UNT ranks in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” yet ranks near the bottom 50 on “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling broad tolerance for shout-downs and other protest tactics that silence speakers.

UNT could start reversing course by overhauling its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopting the Chicago Statement, and making clear that disruptive protests will face discipline.

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.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



40% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.6:1

There are roughly 2.60 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

4

DEPLATFORMINGS

1