

# 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](mailto: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