

Texas State University

San Marcos, 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

112 ▼
/257

▼ -36 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Texas State University ranks 112 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. Its score was 58, an F speech climate grade. Texas State still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place Texas State in the top 25 for “Administrative Support” for free expression and in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” reflecting comparatively greater confidence in campus leadership and peer dialogue. The university ranks in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing a willingness to silence speakers.

Texas State could boost its standing by revising speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality – and clarifying that disruptive tactics have no place in campus debate.

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.



80% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



46% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.96:1

There are roughly 1.96 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

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

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STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

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DEPLATFORMINGS

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