

Utah Valley University

Orem, UT • 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

71
/257

GRADE

D -

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

Overview

Utah Valley University ranks 71 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The university earned a score of 61, a D- speech climate grade, and it earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating with no adoption of the Chicago Statement or the Kalven Report.

Student perceptions paint a mixed picture of campus expression. UVU ranks 1 in “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating that more students find shouting down or violence unacceptable than other schools. The school places in the top 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance” and “Administrative Support.” Despite these bright spots, the overall grade remains low, reflecting restrictive written policies and the absence of formal free-speech commitments.

UVU could improve quickly by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality – signaling stronger institutional support for open expression.

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



38% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



48% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



19% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.21:1

There are roughly 1.21 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B+

OPENNESS

C-

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0