



Colorado

6 schools ranked



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.

AVERAGE RANK

98 
/257

 **7 FROM 2024**

AVERAGE GRADE

D –

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

Six Colorado schools are ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The state's average speech-climate grade is D–, compared to a national average of F.

The University of Colorado Boulder ranks 5 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state — and one of the top-ranked schools nationally. CU Boulder holds a “green light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database and has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality. The University of Colorado Board of Regents has also affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement.

Other campuses in Colorado hold “yellow light” ratings, meaning their written policies threaten student expression. Strengthening policies and expanding formal commitments to expressive rights could help those schools rise in future rankings.

If you have questions, reach out to fire@thefire.org or visit us at <https://rankings.thefire.org/>.

HIGHLIGHTS



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



68% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.89:1

Across Colorado, there are roughly 2.89 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B -

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D +

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D -

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

0