



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

74 ▲
/257

▲ 25 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

D

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

5

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Seven Florida 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.

Florida State University ranks 17 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It holds a "green light" rating in FIRE's Spotlight database. FSU is part of the State University System of Florida, whose Board of Governors has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, applying across the system.

The University of South Florida and the University of Florida rank 24 and 45, respectively. Both also hold "green light" ratings. Florida International, Florida Atlantic, and Central Florida all fall within the top 80 but have "yellow light" ratings. The University of Miami ranks 229 and holds a "red light" rating.

Some may wonder how Florida schools can earn a "green light" speech code rating or rank highly in the College Free Speech Rankings while FIRE is simultaneously litigating against the state's Stop WOKE Act, which restricts instruction on certain concepts related to "race, color, national origin, or sex." The answer lies in FIRE's methodology: the speech code ratings and rankings reflect policies affecting student expression, not classroom instruction or faculty speech. Likewise, the survey component of the rankings captures the experiences of students — not faculty members — on their campuses.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



46% 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.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.57:1

Across Florida, there are roughly 1.57 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASED

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

3

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

1

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

2