



Pennsylvania

15 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.



Overview

Fifteen Pennsylvania schools are ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The state's average speech-climate grade is F, matching the national average.

Gettysburg College ranks 91 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. Carnegie Mellon University and Penn State–Main Campus follow closely at 98 and 109, respectively. All three schools hold “yellow light” ratings in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning their written policies contain at least one provision that threatens student expression.

Four Pennsylvania schools — Drexel, Lafayette, Villanova, and Haverford — hold “red light” ratings, meaning they maintain at least one policy that clearly and substantially restricts protected expression. Franklin & Marshall and Gettysburg are the only schools that adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. And the University of Pennsylvania is the only school in the state to adopt a statement on institutional neutrality.

With no campus earning a “green light” rating and most scoring poorly, Pennsylvania’s schools have significant room for improvement. Reforming written policies and reinforcing public commitments to expressive rights would help raise the state’s free-speech climate.

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.



71% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



31% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.64 : 1

Across Pennsylvania, there are roughly 2.64 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D -

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C +

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C -

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D -

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

5

DEPLATFORMINGS

6

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

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