



# Texas

12 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

Twelve Texas schools are ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The state's average speech-climate grade is F, matching the national average. The University of Texas System Board of Regents has adopted both the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality, applying to all UT campuses in the rankings.

The University of Texas at El Paso ranks 42 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. UTEP performs well on “Self-Censorship,” suggesting students are more willing to express their views openly.

Texas A&M University-College Station ranks 47 and is the only Texas campus with a “green light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies do not seriously threaten student expression. Texas A&M also performs well on “Political Tolerance” and “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating students are more open to controversial speakers and less likely to support shutting them down. Texas A&M has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality. Rice University and the University of Texas at Dallas rank near the bottom and hold “red light” ratings, meaning their written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression. Reforming restrictive policies at private and lower-performing public schools would help strengthen these schools’ free-speech climates.

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



41% 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.



35% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.09 : 1

Across Texas, there are roughly 2.09 liberal students for every one conservative student.

## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASED

### OPENNESS

C -

— NO CHANGE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D -

▼ DECREASED

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

15

### DEPLATFORMINGS

6

### HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

1

### ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

### NEW IN 2025

4