



# Washington

2 schools ranked



College Free Speech  
**RANKINGS**

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

157 ▲  
/257

▲ 26 FROM 2024

#### AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

#### SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

— 1 FROM 2025

## Overview

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

Washington State University ranks 59 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It performs well on “Disruptive Conduct” and “Administrative Support,” suggesting students are less likely to support shutting down speakers and believe administrators would protect free speech in a controversy. WSU holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies threaten student expression. It has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement but has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality.

The University of Washington–Seattle ranks 254 and holds a “red light” rating, meaning its written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression. It has not adopted either statement. Adopting the Chicago Statement and revising restrictive policies could help improve the free-speech climates on Washington’s campuses.

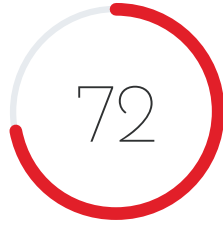
If you have questions, reach out to [fire@thefire.org](mailto:fire@thefire.org) or visit us at <https://rankings.thefire.org/>.



## HIGHLIGHTS



40% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% 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.

3.11:1

Across Washington, there are roughly 3.11 liberal students for every one conservative student.

## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▲ INCREASED

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASED

### OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASED

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASED

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

### DEPLATFORMINGS

3

### HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

### ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

### NEW IN 2025

1