

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Huntsville, AL • Public School



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.

OVERALL RANK

46 ▲

/257

▲ 3 FROM 2024

GRADE

D

— D FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

The University of Alabama in Huntsville ranks 46 out of 257 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, with a score of 64 and a D speech climate grade. The school still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, but the University of Alabama System officially adopted a statement on institutional neutrality this year, which applies to UAH — giving them a modest policy boost.

UAH places in the top 25 for both “Political Tolerance” and “Disruptive Conduct,” and in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas.” Despite this, Huntsville places dead last on “Openness” and in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship,” suggesting many conversations never get started even when students feel generally comfortable speaking.

UAH could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and by launching targeted programs that encourage students to share unpopular views without fear of social or academic backlash.

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@thefire.org.

Visit our website: <https://rankings.thefire.org/> for more information.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



57% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



26% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.69:1

There are roughly 1.69 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

F

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0