

The University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ • 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

32 ▼
/257

▼ -7 FROM 2024

GRADE

D+

▼ C- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

The University of Arizona ranks 32 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 68. Its overall speech climate grade is a D+.

Policy remains a bright spot: UA earns a “green light” Spotlight rating and has endorsed the Chicago Statement. The university places in the bottom 25 for both “Disruptive Conduct” — showing a notable willingness to silence speakers — and “Openness,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits.

UA could improve its score by adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality and by educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct.

Spotlight Rating

Green



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

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.

HIGHLIGHTS



49% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



80% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



48% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.5:1

There are roughly 1.50 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O