

# University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA • 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

217 ▲

/257

▲ 8 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

0 FROM 2025

## Overview

University of California, Berkeley ranks 217 of 257 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52, an F speech climate grade. Its “yellow light” Spotlight rating still holds back progress.

Student perceptions place Berkeley in the top 25 for “Self-Censorship” and in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” offering bright spots. In contrast, the school ranks in the bottom 25 on “Disruptive Conduct.”

Berkeley could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, as well as adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow

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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

HIGHLIGHTS



37% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



82% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.27:1

There are roughly 5.27 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

NEUTRAL

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

3