

Claremont McKenna College

Claremont, CA • Private 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

1 
/257

 5 FROM 2024

GRADE

B-

 C+ FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

Claremont McKenna College ranks 1 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The college earned a score of 80 and is the first school to ever receive a B- speech climate grade. CMC has a “green light” Spotlight rating and commitments to both the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality.

Claremont McKenna ranks highly across almost every major area. The school ranks in the top 10 for “Self-Censorship,” “Administrative Support,” “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” and “Openness.” It also places in the top 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating a lower acceptance of shout-downs compared to other schools.

Progress could be made on the “Disruptive Conduct” score, where Claremont McKenna ranks 39th. By educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct, the college can continue to build on its already robust climate for free expression.

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



32% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



61% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.06:1

There are roughly 4.06 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

C-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D+

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1