

# Occidental College

Los Angeles, 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

151 ▲

/257

▲ -71 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Occidental College ranks 151 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. It posts a score of 57, an F speech climate grade. Its written policies earn a “yellow light” Spotlight rating.

Student perceptions present a sharp contrast. While Occidental places in the top 25 for “Openness,” it also ranks in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance,” indicating student reluctance to welcome speakers with opposing viewpoints.

Occidental could improve by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating as well as adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality — actions that would demonstrate clear, institutional support for robust free expression.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow

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

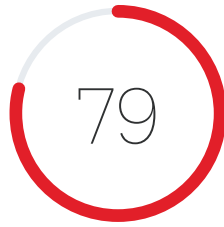
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



79% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

29.77:1

There are roughly 29.77 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

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

B

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0