

Connecticut College

New London, CT • 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

222 ▲

/257

▲ -20 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Connecticut College ranks 222 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. Its score of 52 keeps the college at an F speech climate grade. Connecticut College earns a “red light” Spotlight rating for password-protecting its speech codes and hiding from prospective students what rules on expression they can expect if they enroll.

Connecticut College places in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” a bright spot in an otherwise dim picture. At the same time, Connecticut ranks in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance,” signaling deep resistance to inviting or hearing from contentious speakers across the political spectrum.

Connecticut College could improve by being more transparent with its speech codes. The college could also improve by adopting a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement and adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Spotlight Rating

Red



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



38% 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.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.49:1

There are roughly 6.49 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+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O