

# Yale University

New Haven, 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

58 ▲  
/257

▲ 97 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D -

▼ F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Yale University ranks 58 of 257 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, with a score of 62 and a D- speech climate grade. The university climbed 97 places and added 6 points since last year. This jump coincided with Yale's decision to adopt a statement on institutional neutrality, which delivered a 3-point bonus.

Students report a mixed atmosphere. Yale places in the top 25 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas" and in the top 50 for both "Openness" and "Self-Censorship." Yet the school still earns a "yellow light" Spotlight rating that drags down its overall score.

Yale could build on this progress by revising its speech policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement.

### 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



33% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



78% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.98:1

There are roughly 5.98 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

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

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

### DEPLATFORMINGS

O