

University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL • 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

80 

/257

 103 FROM 2024

GRADE

D -

— D- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

University of Central Florida ranks 80 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 60, a D- speech climate grade.

Student sentiment remains tepid with middling marks on all the survey areas. The State University System of Florida adopted the Chicago Statement, but UCF still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not endorsed an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

UCF could strengthen its free speech environment by revising restrictive speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally adopting 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.

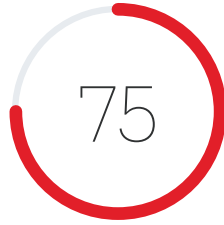
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@thefire.org.

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.



75% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



33% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.66:1

There are roughly 1.66 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

NEUTRAL

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0