

Florida Atlantic University

Boca Raton, 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

68

/257

GRADE

D-

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

Overview

Florida Atlantic University ranks 68 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61, earning a D- speech climate grade. The State University System of Florida adopted the Chicago Statement, but FAU still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating

This was the first year students at FAU were surveyed, and their responses place the school in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” “Political Tolerance,” and “Openness,” indicating several bright spots in campus discourse. In contrast, the school places in the bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting many students support shouting down speakers or blocking events.

To improve, FAU should revise its speech policies to secure a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt 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



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



66% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



40% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.13:1

There are roughly 1.13 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

OPENNESS

C

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O