

# Boise State University

Boise, ID • 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

48 ▲

/257

▲ 33 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D

▲ F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Boise State University ranks 48 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63, a D speech climate grade. The improvement from last year's rank coincided with the university's decision to adopt the Chicago Statement and the Idaho State Board of Education's adoption of institutional neutrality, which together added a boost to Boise State's overall score.

Student perceptions present challenges. Boise State places in the bottom 25 for "Openness," indicating that many topics remain hard to discuss freely on campus.

To keep momentum, Boise State should revise its speech policies to move from a "yellow light" Spotlight rating to "green light" and implement programs that teach students how to engage respectfully despite their differences.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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

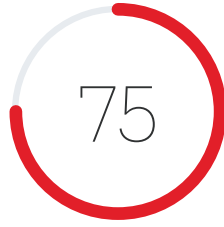
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



46% 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.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.17:1

There are roughly 1.17 conservative students for every one liberal student.

### Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

### OPENNESS

D

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0