

# University of Illinois Chicago

Chicago, IL • 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

130 ▲  
/257

▲ -53 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

## Overview

University of Illinois Chicago ranks 130 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 57 and an F speech climate grade. The school slid 53 places from last year, and a small penalty for investigating a student’s critical Instagram posts further depressed its standing while it continued to carry a “yellow light” Spotlight rating.

On the plus side, student perceptions place UIC in the top 25 for “Openness” and just inside the top 50 for overall “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” suggesting contentious conversations occur at a higher rate than other schools.

UIC could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopting a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement, and 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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



65% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.3:1

There are roughly 3.30 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-

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0