

# Northeastern Illinois University

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

65 

/257

 -50 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D -

— D- FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Northeastern Illinois University ranks 65 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61 and a D- speech climate grade. Its Spotlight rating remains a “yellow light.”

Student perceptions rate NEIU highly in several areas. The university places in the top 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” “Administrative Support” for free speech, and unwillingness to engage in “Disruptive Conduct,” while placing in the top 50 for “Self-Censorship.”

NEIU 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



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



59% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.97:1

There are roughly 2.97 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

C-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O