

# Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS • 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

25 ▼  
/257

▼ -7 FROM 2024

## GRADE

C-

— C- FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Kansas State University ranks 25 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 70, a C- speech climate grade. Strong written policies continue to be a bright spot: K-State earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, and the Kansas Board of Regents adopted the Chicago Statement — applying to Kansas State.

Yet student attitudes paint a mixed picture. While no area lands in the top 50, the university ranks in the bottom 50 on “Disruptive Conduct,” a sharp drop from the top 50 last year.

K-State could bolster its standing by educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct and affirming the university’s commitment to institutional neutrality.

### Spotlight Rating

Green



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



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



44% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.36:1

There are roughly 2.36 conservative students for every one liberal 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

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O