

Tulane University

New Orleans, LA • Private 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

207 ▼

/257

▼ 10 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

Tulane University ranks 207 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The university earned a score of 54, an F speech climate grade and a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. A disciplinary investigation into seven students who joined an off-campus immigration protest imposed a penalty that weighed on this year’s score.

Student perceptions are mixed. Tulane places in the top 50 on “Openness,” signaling relative ease discussing contentious issues compared to other schools. Yet the school lands in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting high tolerance for obstructive protest tactics, and in the bottom 50 for overall “Political Tolerance” toward invited speakers.

Tulane could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct, as well as adopting the Chicago Statement. Note the institution adopted an official position of institutional neutrality after the data for this year’s College Free Speech Rankings was collected.

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



54% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



79% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



41% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.31:1

There are roughly 5.31 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

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

NEUTRAL

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0