

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD • 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

144 ▲

/257

▲ -25 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2025

Overview

Johns Hopkins University ranks 144 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57, an F speech climate grade. The university fired lecturer Tavish Forsyth, which triggered a three-point penalty. On the policy front, Hopkins did adopt institutional neutrality, slightly boosting its score, but still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating that continues to weigh it down.

Students paint a bleak picture. Hopkins places in the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and in the bottom 25 for perceived “Administrative Support” — two areas that together suggest a campus uneasy about open dialogue and unconvinced of administrative backing for free speech. No area lands in the top 50.

To improve, Hopkins could overhaul its remaining restrictive speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and follow its new neutrality pledge with clear, consistent support for faculty and student expression.

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.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow

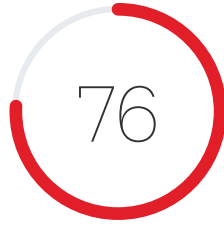


FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.94:1

There are roughly 2.94 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1