

# University of Maryland

College Park, MD • 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

44 ▲

/257

▲ -5 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D

— D FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

1 FROM 2025

## Overview

University of Maryland ranks 44 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 64 and a D speech climate grade. It earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, but a 3-point penalty tied to the 2025 cancellation of an Israeli Defense Force speaker, along with other disciplinary actions, shaved 6 points from its score and prevented any upward movement.

Last year’s student perceptions placed Maryland in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct” and the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” but Maryland moved out of those tiers this year into middling territory — an encouraging shift.

Maryland could bolster its standing by adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality and by reinforcing clear event-management protocols that prevent future disruptions without impeding lawful protest.

### Spotlight Rating

Green 

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

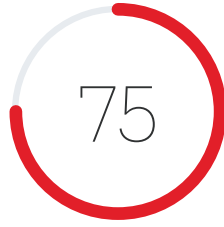
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



43% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



75% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.46:1

There are roughly 2.46 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▲ INCREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

### DEPLATFORMINGS

2