

# Brandeis University

Waltham, MA • 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

149 ▲

/257

▲ 82 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Brandeis University ranks 149 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57, climbing 82 places from last year but earning an F speech climate grade. The university earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted institutional neutrality, limiting further gains.

Student perceptions place Brandeis in the top 50 on “Openness,” suggesting a greater willingness to discuss controversial ideas. Yet serious challenges remain: the school ranks in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship,” “Political Tolerance,” and “Administrative Support,” suggesting widespread hesitation to speak freely and little confidence in the administration’s commitment to free expression.

Brandeis could improve by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, formally adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality, and better communicating a willingness to defend expressive rights on campus.

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.

## Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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

## HIGHLIGHTS



61% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



64% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



30% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

12.72:1

There are roughly 12.72 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

B-

▼ DECREASE

### OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0