

Mount Holyoke College

South Hadley, 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

242 ▲

/257

▲ -35 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Mount Holyoke College ranks 242 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 50, earning an F speech climate grade. The college still earns a “red light” Spotlight rating for restrictive written policies.

Despite the college’s low overall standing, student responses paint a mixed picture. Student perceptions place Mount Holyoke in the top 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” willingness to speak up rather than “Self-Censor[ship],” and “Openness” to a wide range of topics. But the college ranks in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance” of speakers across the political spectrum and in the bottom 50 for supporting disruptive protest tactics, suggesting a campus that welcomes internal debate but resists viewpoints it finds objectionable.

Mount Holyoke could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopting a free speech statement based on the Chicago Statement, and adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

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

Red



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

HIGHLIGHTS



32% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



85% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

83.47:1

There are roughly 83.47 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

▲ INCREASE

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