

Tufts University

Medford, 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

239 ▲

/257

▲ -57 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Tufts University ranks 239 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 50, an F speech climate grade.

Student perceptions place Tufts in the top 50 for “Openness” to discussing specific controversial issues. Yet the school is in the bottom 50 for both “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and perceived “Administrative Support” for free expression. The campus still earns a “red light” Spotlight rating, signaling restrictive written speech policies.

Tufts could improve by revising its written speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopting a free speech statement based on 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

Red



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



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

16.52:1

There are roughly 16.52 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-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0