

# Macalester College

Saint Paul, MN • 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

228 ▲

/257

▲ -44 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Macalester College ranks 228 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52, an F speech climate grade. Macalester earns a “red light” Spotlight rating for password-protecting some of its speech codes and hiding from prospective students what rules on expression they can expect if they enroll.

Student perceptions place Macalester in the top 25 for “Administrative Support,” and in the top 50 for both “Self-Censorship” and “Openness.” Those bright spots, however, are offset by a bottom-25 finish on “Political Tolerance,” signaling little willingness to host speakers with controversial views.

Macalester could begin turning the tide by being more transparent with its speech codes and revising its policies to shed its current “red light” Spotlight rating, as well as adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

### 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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.02:1

There are roughly 6.02 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

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1