

University of Mississippi

University, MS • 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

27 ▼
/257

▼ -7 FROM 2024

GRADE

D+

▼ C- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

University of Mississippi ranks 27 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 69, earning a D+ speech climate grade. The school earns a “green light” Spotlight rating — the best score for written student policies.

Students view parts of the campus climate favorably: Ole Miss ranks in the top 50 nationwide for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” “Political Tolerance,” and “Self-Censorship.” Those strengths, however, are tempered by the university’s failure to adopt the Chicago Statement or a policy of institutional neutrality, steps that could signal a stronger commitment to open inquiry.

Ole Miss could boost its standing by adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality – thereby reinforcing its already strong written policies with clearly communicated institutional principles.

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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



68% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.1:1

There are roughly 2.10 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0