

# University of Missouri – Kansas City

Kansas City, MO • 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

57 ▲  
/257

▲ -1 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

University of Missouri–Kansas City ranks 57 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63, with an overall speech climate grade of D. The school continues to earn a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. The University of Missouri system adopted the Chicago Statement — which applies to UMKC.

Student perceptions place UMKC in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance” and in the top 50 for “Openness,” suggesting a comparatively more welcoming atmosphere for controversial speakers and discussing difficult issues. The university’s policies still fall short of the clarity required for a “green light” Spotlight rating, and it has not embraced the Kalven Report on institutional neutrality.

UMKC could strengthen its speech climate by revising restrictive policies to earn a green light Spotlight rating and adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow

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



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



63% 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.

2.03:1

There are roughly 2.03 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-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0