

University of Nevada, Reno

Reno, NV • 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

100 ▼

/257

▼ 17 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

The University of Nevada, Reno ranks 100 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 59. The school earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, and the Nevada System of Higher Education adopted the Chicago Statement — benefitting the Reno campus.

Student responses place UNR in the bottom 25 nationwide on “Openness,” signaling that many topics feel off-limits in class and social settings.

UNR could strengthen its speech environment by revising restrictive policies to secure a “green light” Spotlight rating, formally adopting an official commitment to institutional neutrality, and creating clear guidelines that protect peaceful expression across the political spectrum.

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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



40% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



71% 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.

2.48:1

There are roughly 2.48 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O