

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ • 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

160 ▲

/257

▲ 63 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Princeton University ranks 160 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The university earns a score of 56, a 5-point jump that lifted it 63 places from last year. Shrinking penalties from past speech controversies helped nudge the score upward, but Princeton still earns a “red light” Spotlight rating for restrictive speech policies.

Student perceptions place Princeton in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” “Self-Censorship,” and “Openness.” Princeton also ranks in the top 50 for “Administrative Support” and “Disruptive Conduct.” These bright spots are undercut by the restrictive policy regime that continues to depress the university’s overall standing.

Princeton could make immediate gains by revising its restrictive speech codes to secure a “green light” Spotlight rating and by adopting 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



22% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.76:1

There are roughly 2.76 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1