

# Clarkson University

Postdam, NY • 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

175 ▼  
/257

▼ -114 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Clarkson University ranks 175 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade. The university still holds a “red light” Spotlight rating for restrictive written student policies.

Even so, student perceptions place Clarkson in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance” and in the top 50 for both “Self-Censorship” and “Disruptive Conduct.”

Policy barriers, rather than student attitudes, keep the overall rating low. Clarkson could improve by overhauling its speech codes to secure at least a “yellow 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



34% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



60% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.02:1

There are roughly 1.02 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

### DEPLATFORMINGS

0