

New York University

New York, 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

250 ▲

/257

▲ -1 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

1 FROM 2025

Overview

New York University ranks 250 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 48, earning an F for its speech climate. While the school still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, this year’s score was hammered by additional penalties after administrators placed sanctions on pro-Palestinian protesters and required them to sign a “Use of Space Agreement” to have sanctions removed.

Students paint a bleak picture: NYU lands in the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” “Disruptive Conduct,” and “Administrative Support,” and in the bottom 50 for both “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Political Tolerance.” The data show no counterbalancing top-50 strengths, indicating systemic shortcomings across nearly every dimension of campus speech.

NYU could start turning the tide by revising its speech codes to secure a “green light” Spotlight rating, as well as adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

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.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



59% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



43% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.81:1

There are roughly 3.81 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

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

2