

University at Buffalo - State University of New York

Buffalo, NY • 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

185 ▼
/257

▼ -16 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

Overview

University at Buffalo ranks 185 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The institution records a score of 55 and an F speech climate grade, paired with a “yellow light” Spotlight rating for its written policies. Buffalo has also adopted the Chicago Statement.

Surveyed students report significant problems: Buffalo ranks in the bottom 25 nationally for “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating high tolerance for shutting down speakers, and in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship.” No area lands in the top 50, highlighting an environment where both expressive freedom and civil engagement remain fragile.

Buffalo could improve by revising its policies to achieve a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



48% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.86:1

There are roughly 2.86 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

C-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0