

Syracuse University

Syracuse, 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

76 ▲
/257

▲ 170 FROM 2024

GRADE

D-

▲ F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Syracuse University ranks 76 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61, a D- speech climate grade. The university's score rose 5 points, and its rank jumped 170 places, a shift that coincided with shrinking speech controversy penalties, a major improvement in student perception, and credit for having adopted both the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Syracuse retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating.

Student perceptions place Syracuse in the top 50 for both "Comfort Expressing Ideas" and "Openness," suggesting many feel free to share and hear viewpoints in class compared to other schools.

Syracuse could build on recent gains by revising its written policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and by sponsoring events that expose students to a wider range of political perspectives.

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



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



67% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



38% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.58:1

There are roughly 4.58 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

3