

North Dakota State University

Fargo, ND • 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

114 ▼

/257

▼ 11 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

North Dakota State University ranks 114 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 58, an F speech climate grade. The university still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place NDSU in the top 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating relatively strong rejection of shout-downs and similar tactics compared to other schools.

NDSU could make immediate progress by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality – as well as clarifying administrative backing for peaceful debate.”

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.



63% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



24% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.11:1

There are roughly 2.11 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

NEUTRAL

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0