

# Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, OH • 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

66 ▼

/257

▼ 82 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D -

▼ D FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

Bowling Green State University ranks 66 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61 and a D- speech climate grade. The university still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. BGSU adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement.

Student perceptions place BGSU in the top 25 for “Administrative Support,” indicating that more students feel the administration will back expressive rights, and in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance.” At the same time, the school ranks in the bottom 25 for “Openness” and the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship,” showing many conversations remain constrained.

BGSU could bolster its standing by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and by 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.

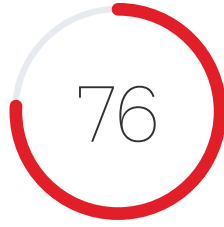
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

HIGHLIGHTS



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% 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.

1.23:1

There are roughly 1.23 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O