

University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, 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

73 ▼
/257

▼ 86 FROM 2024

GRADE

D -

▼ D FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

The University of Cincinnati ranks 73 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61, earning a D- speech climate grade. The school's Spotlight rating remains a "yellow light."

Student perceptions are mixed. Cincinnati ranks in the top 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing a comparatively greater willingness to host speakers from across the ideological spectrum. Yet the university is in the bottom 50 on "Disruptive Conduct," suggesting many students are comfortable with shutting down events they oppose.

Cincinnati could improve 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



41% 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.



37% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.31:1

There are roughly 1.31 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

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O