

Kenyon College

Gambier, OH • 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

85 

/257

 5 FROM 2024

GRADE

D-

— D- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Kenyon College ranks 85 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60, a D- speech climate grade. The school retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating but does earn a small boost for having adopted the Chicago Statement.

Students signal persistent concerns. Kenyon places in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship.” No area lands in the top 50, underscoring a lack of clear strengths in the campus speech environment.

Kenyon could raise its standing by revising restrictive policies to achieve 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.

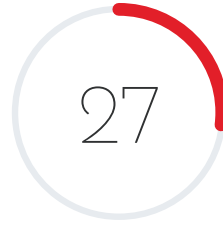
HIGHLIGHTS



43% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.31:1

There are roughly 2.31 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+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O