

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK • 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

90
/257

▼ -38 FROM 2024

GRADE

D -

— D- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

Oklahoma State University ranks 90 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60, a D- speech climate grade. The school received a small bonus after administrators publicly defended a student group's right to post "DEI – Deport Every Illegal" flyers. The school retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place OSU in the top 25 for "Political Tolerance" and in the top 50 for "Administrative Support," suggesting a comparatively greater willingness to host controversial speakers and some trust in campus leadership. However, the university ranks in the bottom 10 on "Openness," continuing a pattern of reluctance to discuss certain hot-button issues.

OSU could strengthen its overall climate by revising its speech policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

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.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



53% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.04:1

There are roughly 1.04 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

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0