

Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR • 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

30 ▼
/257

▼ -22 FROM 2024

GRADE

D+

— D+ FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Oregon State University ranks 30 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 69 and a D+ speech climate grade. The university earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, meaning its written policies do not seriously imperil free speech.

Despite that policy strength, students view the on-campus climate skeptically with middling performance across the board.

To close the gap between sound policies and day-to-day experience, OSU should adopt the Chicago Statement and integrate free expression values into orientation and campus programming.

Spotlight Rating

Green 

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



33% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% 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.

5.15:1

There are roughly 5.15 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O