

Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA • 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

133 ▲
/257

▲ -7 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Bucknell University ranks 133 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The university earned a score of 57, an F speech climate grade. Its written policies earn a “yellow light” Spotlight rating, and the school has not adopted either the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place Bucknell in the top 5 on “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling agreement that speakers should not be shouted down. At the same time, the university ranks in the bottom 10 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” underscoring a persistent reluctance to speak openly.

Bucknell could improve by revising its speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, publicly endorsing the Chicago Statement, and 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



49% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



59% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



21% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.01:1

There are roughly 1.01 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

F

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O