

Lafayette College

Easton, 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

232 ▲

/257

▲ -19 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2025

Overview

Lafayette College ranks 232 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 51, an F speech climate grade. The college still earns a “red light” Spotlight rating, and its overall standing changed little from last year.

Even so, students offer a mixed picture. Lafayette places in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance” and in the top 50 for both “Self-Censorship” and “Openness,” hinting at a willingness to hear differing views and speak up for themselves. At the same time, the college ranks in the bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” reflecting greater acceptance of shout-downs, and for “Administrative Support,” suggesting limited confidence in campus leaders to defend free expression.

Lafayette could make quick progress by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally adopting the Chicago Statement on free expression.

Spotlight Rating

Red



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



34% 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.



43% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

7.01:1

There are roughly 7.01 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0