

# Villanova University

Villanova, 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

237 ▼  
/257

▼ -52 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

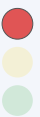
Villanova University ranks 237 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, earning a score of 51, an F speech climate grade. The university slid 52 places from last year and continues to earn a “red light” Spotlight rating, with no offsetting policy improvements to boost its overall score.

Students signal deep concerns. Villanova ranks in the bottom 25 nationwide for both “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Self-Censorship,” indicating many students feel uneasy sharing views and frequently hold back controversial opinions. No area lands in the top 50, underscoring a campus climate where free expression lags across multiple measures.

Villanova could begin reversing this trend by revising restrictive speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopting the Chicago Statement to affirm its commitment to robust debate.

### 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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

Visit our website: <https://rankings.thefire.org/> for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS



52% 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.



36% 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 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-

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O