

# College of Charleston

Charleston, SC • 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

178 ▲

/257

▲ 26 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

## Overview

The College of Charleston ranks 178 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The school earns a score of 56, an F speech climate grade.

Student perceptions place the college in the top 25 on “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating relatively more students reject shout-downs or blockades. Nearly every other measure, however, shows serious trouble: the campus ranks in the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Self-Censorship,” and in the bottom 25 for “Openness” to discussing specific controversial topics.

Charleston could make quick progress by revising its policies to replace the current “yellow light” Spotlight rating with a “green light,” as well as by formally adopting the Chicago Statement and 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](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



54% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



61% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.55:1

There are roughly 1.55 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

B

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

D

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

NEUTRAL

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

### DEPLATFORMINGS

O