

# The University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, TX • 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

240 ▲

/257

▲ -74 FROM 2024

## GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

4

2 FROM 2025

## Overview

The University of Texas at Dallas ranks 240 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 50, an F speech climate grade. The school had multiple speech-related controversies, including administrators canceling a FIRE staffer's talk and the university system restricting drag performances, which together cost UT Dallas a 4-point penalty. The University of Texas System recently adopted institutional neutrality — applying to the Dallas campus — but those gains were offset by a persistent “red light” Spotlight rating that continues to drag down its overall score.

Students view administrative leadership harshly, placing the university in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” and no surveyed area places in the top 50.

To reverse course, UT Dallas should overhaul its written speech codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and align everyday practices with its newly announced neutrality principles.”

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.

## Spotlight Rating

Red



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

## HIGHLIGHTS



42% 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.



35% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3:1

There are roughly 3.00 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

### OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

3

### DEPLATFORMINGS

1