

Texas Tech University

Lubbock, 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

102 ▲

/257

▲ -34 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Texas Tech University ranks 102 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. Its score is 59, with an F speech climate grade.

Student perceptions were mixed. Texas Tech ranks in the top 25 for “Administrative Support,” signaling comparatively greater confidence that leadership backs expressive rights, and in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance,” indicating relative willingness to host controversial speakers from across the political spectrum. At the same time, the school ranks in the bottom 50 for “Openness,” meaning many students felt wary discussing particular hot-button issues.

Texas Tech could strengthen its standing by adopting the Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality, along with overhauling its policies to replace the current “yellow light” Spotlight rating with a “green light.”

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



38% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



68% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.91:1

There are roughly 1.91 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0