

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV • 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

153 ▼

/257

▼ -56 FROM 2024

GRADE

F

— F FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

West Virginia University ranks 153 in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade. The university slid 56 places from last year, a decline that may be attributed to a penalty after the football coach barred players from posting dance videos on TikTok.

Student perceptions place WVU in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance,” yet the school ranks in the bottom 25 on “Openness,” indicating difficulty discussing particular hot-button issues. The university still earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

WVU could bolster its speech climate by revising its policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and formally embracing the Chicago Statement and adopting 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.

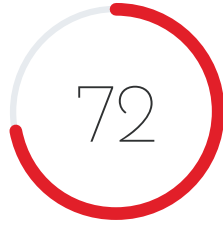
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@thefire.org.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



31% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.16:1

There are roughly 1.16 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+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0