

# Stanford University

Stanford, CA • 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

75 ▲  
/257

▲ 143 FROM 2024

## GRADE

D-

— D- FROM 2024

## SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

1 FROM 2025

## Overview

Stanford University ranks 75 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61 and a D- speech climate grade. The school earned a 2-point penalty for a disruptive protest of a debate between economists Emmanuel Saez and Larry Summers. The university earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has adopted both the Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality.

Student perceptions place Stanford in the top 25 for “Openness” to discussing controversial topics.

Stanford could make further progress by revising its speech policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct, and by reinforcing that disruptive tactics will not be tolerated.

### Spotlight Rating

Yellow

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

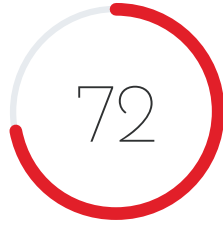
If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@thefire.org](mailto:speechcodes@thefire.org).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



44% 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.



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

5.33:1

There are roughly 5.33 liberal students for every one conservative student.

### Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

C+

▼ DECREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

### DEPLATFORMINGS

3