

Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN • 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

2 ▼
/257

▼ 28 FROM 2024

GRADE

C

▼ C+ FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Purdue University ranks a lofty 2 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 76, a C speech climate grade. Purdue earns a “green light” Spotlight rating and has adopted both the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Disappointingly, Purdue recently invoked its institutional neutrality commitment in deciding to stop circulating an independent student newspaper on campus and demanded that the paper remove “Purdue” from its web address. This overzealous application, which occurred after data was collected for this year’s rankings, may cause Purdue’s rank to go down next year.

Student perceptions place Purdue in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” suggesting broad willingness to host speakers from across the ideological spectrum compared to other schools.

Purdue can build on its strong policy foundation by tightening protest guidelines to discourage shout-downs and educating students on when expression crosses into unprotected conduct.

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.

Spotlight Rating

Green



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

HIGHLIGHTS



36% 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.



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

1.72:1

There are roughly 1.72 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

D-

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0