

The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa, AL • 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

40 

/261

 49 FROM 2025

GRADE

D+

 D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

4

0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Alabama ranks 40 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 68 and a D+ speech climate grade, climbing 49 places from last year. UA earns a “green light” Spotlight rating. UA is part of the University of Alabama System, which has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality.

UA lands in the bottom 25 for “Openness,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It tumbled 126 places from last year into the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” showing students frequently stay silent. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

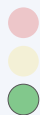
UA should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the university’s commitment to free speech and build community trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

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

Visit our website, rankings.fire.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



52% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



65% 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.

1.54:1

There are roughly 1.54 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

2

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

0