

Auburn University

Auburn, 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

39 ▼

/261

▼ -11 FROM 2025

GRADE

D+

▼ C- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Auburn University ranks 39 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 68 and a D+ speech climate grade.

Auburn ranks in the top 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. However, it lands in the bottom 25 for “Openness,” meaning contentious topics feel off-limits to students. Its “Comfort Expressing Ideas” rank tumbled 150 places from last year, indicating students feel constrained in sharing their views on controversial topics.

Auburn earns a “green light” Spotlight rating. It should adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Auburn 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



46% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



55% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



18% 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 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

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0