

University of Arkansas

Fayetteville, AR • 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

242 ▼

/261

▼ -125 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

3

2 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Arkansas ranks 242 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 53 and an F speech climate grade. UA dropped 125 places from last year and was penalized after reversing course on a dean's hiring and ordering a professor to remove posters from her office door.

UA ranks in the top 50 for "Disruptive Conduct," showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for "Openness," meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students.

UA maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. UA should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[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

Yellow



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

HIGHLIGHTS



45% 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.

1.72 : 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

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

3

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0