

Arkansas State University

Jonesboro, 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

134 ▼

/261

▼ -47 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Arkansas State University ranks 134 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade.

It ranks in the top 50 for “Disruptive Conduct” and “Administrative Support,” showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful protest and higher trust in the administration. The campus lands in the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” indicating students frequently stay silent. It also tumbled 100 places on “Political Tolerance” after ranking in the top 25 last year, indicating reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers.

Arkansas State earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. It should adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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

[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.

HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



54% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.12 : 1

There are roughly 1.12 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0