California State University, Fresno

Fresno, CA • Public School

College Free Speech RANKINGS

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

208 ▲

/261

▲ 2 **FROM 2025**

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

California State University, Fresno ranks 208 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade.

Fresno State ranks in the top 25 for "Administrative Support," indicating students trust officials to defend speech. Its "Self-Censorship" rank jumped 174 places from the bottom 25 last year, signaling less hesitation to speak. Conversely, its "Comfort Expressing Ideas" rank tumbled 103 places from the top 50 last year, showing students feel constrained when sharing views on controversial topics.

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

Spotlight Rating

Red



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



28% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



61% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.37 : 1

There are roughly 3.37 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

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B−

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0