

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA • 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

215 ▲

/261

▲ 2 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

5

3 FROM 2026

Overview

University of California, Berkeley ranks 215 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade. UC Berkeley earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It was penalized after protesters disrupted an event this year featuring a Google scientist.

UC Berkeley lands in the bottom 25 on “Disruptive Conduct,” showing student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. It tumbled 130 places from last year on “Administrative Support,” meaning students doubt administrators will defend speech, and 114 places on “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating discomfort sharing views on controversial topics. UC Berkeley 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. It should clearly and forcefully 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



38% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



81% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



43% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.62 : 1

There are roughly 5.62 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

C-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

3