

University of California, Davis

Davis, 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

24 ▲
/261

▲ 228 FROM 2025

GRADE

C

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of California, Davis ranks 24 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 73 and a C speech climate grade, climbing 228 places and 18 points from last year. UC Davis earns a “green light” Spotlight rating and has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality.

UC Davis ranks in the top 50 on “Administrative Support,” showing students trust officials to defend speech. Its “Self-Censorship” rank jumped 144 places from last year, indicating less hesitation to speak. However, it lands in the bottom 25 on “Disruptive Conduct,” showing student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

It should clearly and forcefully 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



36% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.9 : 1

There are roughly 4.90 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1