

University of California, San Diego

La Jolla, 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

200 ▼

/261

▼ -17 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

University of California, San Diego ranks 200 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57 and an F speech climate grade. Its score includes a penalty after a student government candidate was disqualified over protected speech this year.

UC San Diego lands in the bottom 50 on “Political Tolerance” and “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers and student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. It ranks in the bottom 50 on “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing discomfort sharing views.

It earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. UC San Diego should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Given this year’s incident, 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



32% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.48 : 1

There are roughly 6.48 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

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0