San Diego State University

San Diego, 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

188
/261

▼ -23 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

San Diego State University ranks 188 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade. SDSU earns a "yellow light" Spotlight rating.

SDSU lands in the bottom 50 for "Disruptive Conduct," signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. Its "Comfort Expressing Ideas" rank jumped 137 places from last year, showing greater student comfort sharing views on controversial topics, but its "Self-Censorship" rank tumbled 145 places, indicating greater hesitancy to speak.

SDSU should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and 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



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



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



42% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.94 : 1

There are roughly 3.94 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–

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D–

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0