University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA • Private 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

234 ▲

/261

▲ 10 **FROM 2025**

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of San Francisco ranks 234 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 54 and an F speech climate grade.

USF ranks in the top 25 for "Openness," up 107 places from last year, meaning students report fewer contentious topics felt off-limits. It lands in the top 50 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas," indicating greater student comfort sharing views. Conversely, the campus places in the bottom 25 for "Political Tolerance," revealing student reluctance to host controversial speakers, and in the bottom 50 for "Disruptive Conduct," signaling acceptance of non-peaceful protest.

USF earns a "red light" Spotlight rating and should revise student policies to secure a "green light" Spotlight rating. It should adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality and clearly and forcefully 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



33% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.63 : 1

There are roughly 5.63 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0