University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs, CO • 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
79
/261

GRADE
D

CONTROVERSIES
0
0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of Colorado Colorado Springs ranks 79 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade.

UCCS ranks in the top 25 for "Disruptive Conduct," showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest, and in the top 50 for "Political Tolerance," indicating comparatively greater student willingness to host speakers across the ideological spectrum. However, it lands in the bottom 25 for "Openness," meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students.

UCCS has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, but it maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. UCCS 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



40% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



62% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



23% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.63 : 1

There are roughly 1.63 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS
D

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT
B

OPENNESS
D

SELF-CENSORSHIP
D

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
F

POLITICAL TOLERANCE
F

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE
0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE
0

DEPLATFORMINGS
0