

Colorado State University

Fort Collins, 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

135 ▼
/261

▼ -22 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Colorado State University ranks 135 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade.

CSU's "Self-Censorship" rank jumped 135 places from the bottom 50 last year, indicating less student hesitation to speak. However, its "Administrative Support" rank tumbled 108 places from the top 50 last year, showing less student trust that officials will defend speech. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

CSU retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. CSU should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

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



34% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



71% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



26% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.93:1

There are roughly 2.93 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O