

Colorado Mesa University

Grand Junction, 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

19
/261

GRADE

C

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

Colorado Mesa University ranks 19 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 73 and a C speech climate grade. Its score includes a penalty after administrators suspended a student group over procedural violations ahead of a planned protest against Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

CMU ranks in the top 25 on “Administrative Support,” showing high trust that officials will defend speech. It ranks in the top 50 on “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and “Political Tolerance,” indicating students feel comfortable sharing views on controversial topics and are comparatively more willing to host speakers across the ideological spectrum.

The campus earns a “green light” Spotlight rating and has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. CMU should adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. CMU 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

Green



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

HIGHLIGHTS



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



66% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.07 : 1

There are roughly 1.07 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

OPENNESS

C-

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

C-

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0