

Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT • Private School



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

120 ▲
/261

▲ 7 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Wesleyan University ranks 120 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61 and a D- speech climate grade.

Wesleyan ranks in the top 50 for “Administrative Support” and “Openness,” meaning students trust officials and fewer topics feel off-limits. It tumbled 122 places into the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” showing students frequently hesitate to speak. It also jumped 165 places on “Political Tolerance,” showing greater student willingness to host controversial speakers, and 100 places on “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing greater student comfort sharing views.

Wesleyan retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Wesleyan should respond clearly and forcefully to 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

Yellow

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

HIGHLIGHTS



43% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



70% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



31% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

5.13:1

There are roughly 5.13 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

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O