University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL • *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

73 ▲

/261

▲ 7 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of Central Florida ranks 73 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 64 and a D speech climate grade.

UCF ranks in the top 50 for "Administrative Support" and "Self-Censorship," showing students trust officials to defend speech and are less hesitant to speak. Its "Comfort Expressing Ideas" rank jumped 109 places from last year, showing students feel increasingly comfortable sharing views on controversial topics.

UCF is part of the State University System of Florida, which has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. UCF maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. UCF 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



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



75% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



24% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.1 : 1

There are roughly 2.10 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C–

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0