

University of Georgia

Athens, GA • Public 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

97 ▲

/261

▲ 46 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of Georgia ranks 97 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade, up 46 places and 6 points from last year.

UGA ranks in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” showing greater student willingness to host controversial speakers, and in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” suggesting students trust officials to defend speech.

UGA is part of the University System of Georgia, which has affirmed a statement on institutional neutrality. UGA retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. UGA should clearly and forcefully defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the university’s commitment to free speech and build community trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

[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



42% 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.



33% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.05 : 1

There are roughly 2.05 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1