

Boise State University

Boise, ID • 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

59 ▼

/261

▼ -11 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

D FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Boise State University ranks 59 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 65 and a D speech climate grade.

BSU ranks in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance,” showing greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for “Openness,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students. BSU tumbled 129 places from last year for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and 110 places for “Self-Censorship,” indicating students feel less comfortable sharing views and are increasingly hesitant to speak.

The Idaho State Board of Education has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality, which applies to BSU. Additionally, BSU has adopted the Chicago Statement, but it earns a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. BSU should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” and 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

Yellow



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

HIGHLIGHTS



47% 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.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.03 : 1

There are roughly 1.03 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0