University of Idaho

Moscow, ID • 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

87 /261

▼ -44 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

D FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

University of Idaho ranks 87 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade, dropping 44 places from last year.

UI ranks in the top 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing comparatively greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. However, it tumbled 171 places from last year into the bottom 25 for "Self-Censorship," indicating students frequently stay silent. It also dropped 114 places from last year's top 25 in "Comfort Expressing Ideas," showing discomfort sharing views on controversial topics.

UI maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating and has adopted an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. UI 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

45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

64% 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.

1.13 : 1

There are roughly 1.13 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED

Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS
D
▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT
B–
▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS
C–
▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP
D–
▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
D–
▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE
F
▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE
0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE
0

DEPLATFORMINGS
0