

The University of Chicago

Chicago, IL • 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

1
/261

▲ 2 FROM 2025

GRADE

B-

▲ C+ FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Chicago ranks 1 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 81 and a B- speech climate grade.

UChicago ranks first nationally on “Administrative Support,” showing strong trust in officials to defend speech. It lands in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” indicating comparatively greater student willingness to host controversial speakers, and “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits. The data shows no bottom 50 weaknesses.

The University of Chicago authored the original Chicago Statement and the Kalven Report on institutional neutrality. The school earns a “green light” Spotlight rating. UChicago should respond clearly and forcefully to 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](#)

Spotlight Rating

Green



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

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



35% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

7.15 : 1

There are roughly 7.15 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

C-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O