

# Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS • 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

35 ▼

/261

▼ -10 FROM 2025

## GRADE

C-

C- FROM 2025

## CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

## Overview

Kansas State University ranks 35 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 70 and a C- speech climate grade.

It tumbled 177 places from last year into the bottom 25 for “Openness,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It plummeted 108 places into the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” indicating students frequently stay silent. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

The university earns a “green light” Spotlight rating, and the Kansas State University System’s board has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. Kansas State should adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It 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](#)

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to [speechcodes@fire.org](mailto:speechcodes@fire.org).

Visit our website, [rankings.fire.org](https://rankings.fire.org), for more information.

## Spotlight Rating

Green



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

## HIGHLIGHTS



40% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



40% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.93 : 1

There are roughly 1.93 conservative students for every one liberal student.

### Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



### Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



## SCORE DEEP DIVE

### COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

### DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

### OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

### SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

### POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

### SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

### STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

### DEPLATFORMINGS

O