

Bowdoin College

Brunswick, ME • 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

186 ▼

/261

▼ -2 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

2 FROM 2026

Overview

Bowdoin College ranks 186 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade.

Bowdoin ranks in the top 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. Its “Self-Censorship” rank jumped 118 places from last year into the top 50, indicating less hesitancy to speak. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for “Administrative Support,” signaling little trust that officials will defend speech.

Bowdoin 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 and institutional neutrality. Given its weak showing on “Administrative Support,” administrators should respond clearly and forcefully to 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.

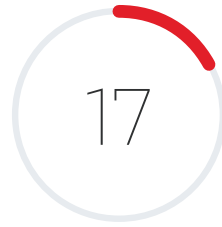
HIGHLIGHTS



37% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



67% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



17% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.53 : 1

There are roughly 6.53 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

0