Towson University

Towson, MD • 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
115 ▼
/261
▼ -11 FROM 2025

GRADE
D-
D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
0
0 FROM 2026

Overview

Towson University ranks 115 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 61 and a D- speech climate grade.

The campus maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating and lands in the bottom 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers. It ranks in the bottom 50 for "Disruptive Conduct," indicating student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

Towson is part of the University System of Maryland, which has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. Towson should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It 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



39% 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.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.86 : 1

There are roughly 3.86 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0