

Brandeis University

Waltham, MA • 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

123 ▲
/261

▲ 26 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Brandeis University ranks 123 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade.

It ranks in the top 50 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” indicating weak trust in officials, and “Political Tolerance,” showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers. Its “Comfort Expressing Ideas” rank fell 100 places into the bottom 25, while “Self-Censorship” jumped 143 places, signaling less hesitation to speak.

Brandeis has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement but retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt institutional neutrality. Administrators should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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



48% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



70% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

8.41 : 1

There are roughly 8.41 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D -

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C +

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C +

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O