# Wellesley College

*Wellesley, MA • Private 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**

212 ▲
/261

▲ 13 FROM 2025

**GRADE**

F

F FROM 2025

**CONTROVERSIES**

0

0 FROM 2026

## Overview

Wellesley College ranks 212 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade.

Wellesley lands in the top 25 for "Openness," meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It ranks in the bottom 25 for "Disruptive Conduct," signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest, and "Political Tolerance," showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers. It also ranks in the bottom 25 for "Administrative Support" and "Comfort Expressing Ideas."

Wellesley retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt 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.

**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

42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

84% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

35% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

22.14 : 1

There are roughly 22.14 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**

C–

▼ DECREASE

**OPENNESS**

B

▲ INCREASE

**SELF-CENSORSHIP**

D

▼ DECREASE

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

F

▲ INCREASE

**POLITICAL TOLERANCE**

F

▼ DECREASE

**SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE**

0

**STUDENTS UNDER FIRE**

0

**DEPLATFORMINGS**

0