

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI • 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

166 ▼

/261

▼ -61 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

4

0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Michigan ranks 166 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade, falling 61 places from last year.

Michigan lands in the bottom 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing students feel uncomfortable sharing views on controversial topics. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

Michigan’s board has affirmed an official commitment to institutional neutrality, and the university has also affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. The campus retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. Michigan should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. 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.

Visit our website, rankings.fire.org, for more information.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow

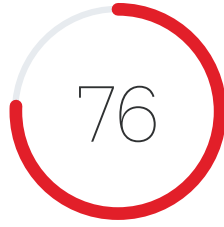


FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.58 : 1

There are roughly 4.58 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D -

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C +

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

3