

University of Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN • 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

204 ▼

/261

▼ -58 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2026

Overview

University of Minnesota ranks 204 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 56 and an F speech climate grade. Its ranking includes a penalty stemming from an attempted disruption of an event featuring an anti-abortion speaker.

UMN lands in the bottom 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating students feel uncomfortable sharing views on controversial topics. It ranks in the bottom 50 for “Openness” and “Administrative Support,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits and students doubt officials will defend speech.

Minnesota’s faculty senate affirmed the Chicago Statement and the university’s board adopted a commitment to institutional neutrality. However, UMN retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. Administrators should clearly and forcefully 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



47% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



74% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.67:1

There are roughly 3.67 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1