

University of Missouri - Columbia

Columbia, MO • 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

30 ▼

/261

▼ -14 FROM 2025

GRADE

C-

C- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Missouri-Columbia ranks 30 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 71 and a C- speech climate grade.

Mizzou ranks in the bottom 25 for “Openness” and the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits and students feel constrained sharing views. It tumbled 103 places from last year for “Administrative Support,” indicating students doubt officials will defend speech. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

Mizzou holds a “green light” Spotlight rating and has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. It should adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Mizzou 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](#)

Spotlight Rating

Green



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



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



65% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.15 : 1

There are roughly 1.15 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O