

Dartmouth College

Hanover, NH • 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

6
/261

▲ 29 FROM 2025

GRADE

C+

▲ D+ FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Dartmouth College ranks 6 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 77 and a C+ speech climate grade, up 8 points and 29 places from last year.

The school ranks in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” showing comparatively greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. It jumped 174 places to the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating students are comfortable sharing views, and climbed 145 places to the top 50 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students.

It has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality, and holds a “green light” Spotlight rating. Dartmouth should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the college’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

Green



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

HIGHLIGHTS



43% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



67% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



21% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

7.76 : 1

There are roughly 7.76 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1