Montclair State University

Montclair, NJ • Public 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

185 /261

▲ 17 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Montclair State University ranks 185 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade.

The campus ranks in the top 50 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas," showing comfort sharing views on controversial topics. However, its "Disruptive Conduct" rank tumbled 116 places from last year, signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. Its "Self-Censorship" rank also dropped 101 places, indicating increased hesitation to speak.

Montclair State retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Montclair State should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

View the Full Spotlight Rating

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



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



39% 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.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.74 : 1

There are roughly 4.74 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
C
▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP
D-
▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
F
▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE
F
▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE
0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE
0

DEPLATFORMINGS
1