

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ • 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

257 ▼

/261

▼ -21 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

4

2 FROM 2026

Overview

Rutgers University ranks 257 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 50 and an F speech climate grade. It was penalized for four speech controversies, including a dean's decision to rescind a commencement speaker's invitation.

Rutgers lands in the bottom 25 for "Self-Censorship," meaning students frequently stay silent. It also tumbled 107 places from last year into the bottom 50 for "Political Tolerance" this year, showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

Rutgers maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Given this year's deplatforming, Rutgers should clearly and forcefully 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



46% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



66% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



35% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.24:1

There are roughly 4.24 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

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

4