New Mexico State University

Las Cruces, NM • 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

175 ▼

/261

▼ -76 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

New Mexico State University ranks 175 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade, dropping 76 places from last year.

NMSU ranks in the top 50 for "Self-Censorship," meaning students report less hesitancy to speak. It lands in the bottom 25 for "Disruptive Conduct," tumbling 187 places from last year and signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. It also dropped 136 places into the bottom 25 for "Openness" this year, meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students.

NMSU maintains 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. NMSU 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



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



76% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



38% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.78 : 1

There are roughly 3.78 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+

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C–

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

D–

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D–

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0