

Barnard College

New York, NY • 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

221 ▲
/261

▲ 36 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Barnard College ranks 221 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 55 and an F speech climate grade, rising 36 places and 12 points from last year.

Barnard lands last nationally for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” “Self-Censorship,” and “Administrative Support,” meaning students feel constrained sharing views, frequently self-censor, and doubt officials will defend speech. Its “Disruptive Conduct” rank jumped 162 places from last year, showing less student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Barnard has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality, but it retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. Given its weak showing on “Administrative Support,” administrators should clearly and forcefully defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[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

Yellow ●●●

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

HIGHLIGHTS



71% 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.



22% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

42:1

There are roughly 42 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

F

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1