Colgate University

Hamilton, NY • Private 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

49 ▲

/261

▲ 89 **FROM 2025**

GRADE

D+

▲ D- **FROM 2025**

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Colgate University ranks 49 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 67 and a D+ speech climate grade, rising 89 places and 5 points from last year.

Colgate ranks in the top 25 for "Disruptive Conduct," jumping 104 places, showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers.

Colgate has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality, but earns a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating. Colgate should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the university's commitment to free speech and build community trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

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.



47% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



16% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.82 : 1

There are roughly 3.82 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0