University of Rochester

Rochester, 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
229
/261
▼ -15 FROM 2025

GRADE
F
F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
1
0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Rochester ranks 229 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 54 and an F speech climate grade.

Rochester ranks in the bottom 25 for "Administrative Support," "Political Tolerance," and "Comfort Expressing Ideas," showing little student trust in officials to defend speech, reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers, and student discomfort sharing views on controversial topics. Its "Disruptive Conduct" rank fell 104 places from last year, signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful protest.

Rochester maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Administrators should clearly and forcefully defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

Spotlight Rating
Yellow



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

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.

HIGHLIGHTS



36% 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.



30% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

9 : 1

There are roughly 9.00 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

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0