

University at Buffalo - State University Of New York

Buffalo, NY • 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

127 ▲

/261

▲ 58 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

University at Buffalo – State University of New York ranks 127 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade. UB climbed 58 places from last year, despite a penalty this year after protesters attempted to disrupt an event by shouting at guest speakers and attendees before being removed by police.

The data shows no top 50 strengths. UB ranks in the bottom 25 for “Self-Censorship,” indicating students frequently stay silent.

UB has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, but retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Given this year’s disruption, UB should respond clearly and forcefully to 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



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



37% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.42:1

There are roughly 2.42 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1