

Vassar College

Poughkeepsie, 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

170 ▲

/261

▲ 9 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Vassar College ranks 170 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58, marking its sixth straight year with an F speech climate grade.

Vassar ranks in the top 25 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. However, the school lands in the bottom 25 for “Political Tolerance,” showing lower student willingness to host controversial speakers.

Vassar maintains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Vassar should respond clearly and forcefully whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the college’s commitment to free speech and build trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

[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



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



81% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

13.33 : 1

There are roughly 13.33 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

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O