

Davidson College

Davidson, NC • 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

63 ▲

/261

▲ 15 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Davidson College ranks 63 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 65 and a D speech climate grade.

The campus ranks in the top 50 for “Administrative Support,” showing greater student trust in officials. Its rank for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” jumped 164 places from last year into the top 50 this year, showing students feel more comfortable sharing views on controversial topics.

Davidson maintains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Davidson 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](#)

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



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



20% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.08 : 1

There are roughly 6.08 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0