University of North Carolina Charlotte

Charlotte, NC • *Public 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

12 ▲

/261

▲ 8 **FROM 2025**

GRADE

C

▲ C- **FROM 2025**

CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte ranks 12 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 75 and a C speech climate grade. The campus earns a "green light" Spotlight rating andis part of the University of North Carolina System, which has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality.

UNC Charlotte ranks in the bottom 50 for "Self-Censorship," indicating students frequently stay silent. The data shows no counterbalancing top 50 strengths.

UNC Charlotte should respond clearly and forcefully 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.

Spotlight Rating

Green



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



48% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



72% 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.

2.7 : 1

There are roughly 2.70 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D+

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C–

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D–

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D–

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1