

North Carolina State University

Raleigh, NC • 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

18 ▼

/261

▼ -8 FROM 2025

GRADE

C

C FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

North Carolina State University ranks 18 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 73 and a C speech climate grade. The campus earns a “green light” Spotlight rating and is part of the University of North Carolina System, which has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality.

NC State ranks in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance,” showing comparatively greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. It jumped 135 places from last year into the top 50 for “Disruptive Conduct” this year, indicating lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing student discomfort sharing views on controversial topics. NC State should respond clearly and forcefully whenever censorship occurs or is demanded, demonstrating its commitment to free expression.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

Spotlight Rating

Green



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



43% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



66% 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.

2.46 : 1

There are roughly 2.46 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1