Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, OH • 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

80 ▼

/261

▼ -14 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Bowling Green State University ranks 80 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade.

BGSU ranks in the top 25 for "Administrative Support," suggesting students trust the administration to defend free speech. However, the campus lands in the bottom 25 for "Openness," meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students.

BGSU has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement but maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should respond clearly and forcefully whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate its commitment to free expression and help build community 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



29% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.13 : 1

There are roughly 2.13 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

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0