Ohio University

Athens, 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
101
/261
▼ -37 FROM 2025

GRADE
D-
D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
0
0 FROM 2026

Overview

Ohio University ranks 101 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 62 and a D- speech climate grade, falling 37 places from last year.

The campus ranks in the bottom 50 for "Openness," meaning many contentious topics feel off-limits to students. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

Ohio University 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. The university 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.

Spotlight Rating
Yellow



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



40% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.81 : 1

There are roughly 2.81 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+

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D–

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0