

Portland State University

Portland, OR • 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

238 ▼

/261

▼ -30 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Portland State University ranks 238 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 54 and an F speech climate grade.

PSU ranks in the top 50 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It lands in the bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. Its “Self-Censorship” rank fell 180 places from the top 25 last year, indicating greater hesitation to speak.

PSU retains a “red light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. PSU should clearly and forcefully defend free expression whenever censorship occurs or is demanded, demonstrating its commitment and building trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

[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.

Spotlight Rating

Red

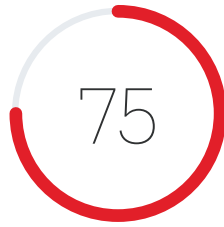


FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



35% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



75% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



39% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.6 : 1

There are roughly 6.6 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O