

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, PA • Private 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

187 ▼
/261

▼ -89 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Carnegie Mellon University ranks 187 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade, falling 89 places from last year.

CMU lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” indicating little trust that officials will defend speech. It tumbled 135 places into the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” meaning students feel constrained when sharing views on controversial topics. Its “Disruptive Conduct” rank fell 147 places, signaling greater student acceptance of non-peaceful protest.

CMU maintains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Administrators should clearly and forcefully defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[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

Yellow



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

HIGHLIGHTS



37% 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.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.76 : 1

There are roughly 3.76 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

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O