

Drexel University

Philadelphia, 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

249 ▼

/261

▼ -6 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

Drexel University ranks 249 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52 and an F speech climate grade. It was penalized after removing a commencement speaker this year.

Drexel ranks in the top 50 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. Its “Self-Censorship” rank fell 119 places from last year, indicating students hesitate to speak. Its “Political Tolerance” rank jumped 104 places, showing greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. Drexel lands in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing high student acceptance of non-peaceful protest.

Drexel earns a “red light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt institutional neutrality. Drexel should clearly and forcefully defend free expression 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

Red



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

HIGHLIGHTS



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



38% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.86 : 1

There are roughly 4.86 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+

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

1