Gettysburg College

Gettysburg, PA • Private 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

85 ▲

/261

▲ 6 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Gettysburg College ranks 85 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade.

Gettysburg jumped 155 places from last year into the top 25 for "Administrative Support," indicating student trust in officials. However, it lands in the bottom 50 for "Self-Censorship," showing student hesitancy to speak, and fell 105 places into the bottom 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers.

Gettysburg's board has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, but the college holds 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. Gettysburg should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

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



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



65% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



33% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.48 : 1

There are roughly 4.48 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
C
▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP
D–
▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
D
▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE
F
▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE
0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE
0

DEPLATFORMINGS
0