

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, 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

217 ▼

/261

▼ -18 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

Swarthmore College ranks 217 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 55 and an F speech climate grade.

It lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” meaning students doubt the administration will defend free speech, and “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” indicating discomfort with sharing views. It tumbled 164 places from last year into the bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Swarthmore maintains a “yellow 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. Given its weak showing on “Administrative Support,” administrators should respond clearly and forcefully to 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



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



81% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



36% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.63 : 1

There are roughly 3.63 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

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0