

Temple University

Philadelphia, PA • 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

145 ▲

/261

▲ 59 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

1 FROM 2026

Overview

Temple University ranks 145 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 59 and an F speech climate grade. It climbed 59 places, aided by a bonus for declining to cancel an invited speaker and instead issuing a statement in support of free inquiry.

Temple ranks in the top 25 for “Openness,” meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. However, Temple lands in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Temple earns 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. Temple 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



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



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



41% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

7.74 : 1

There are roughly 7.74 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

B-

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1