

University of North Texas

Denton, TX • Public 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

248 ▼

/261

▼ -48 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

4

3 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of North Texas ranks 248 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 for several speech controversies, including the cancellation of an art exhibit featuring works critical of federal immigration enforcement.

UNT lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” indicating little student trust that officials will defend speech. It ranks in the top 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing that students feel comfortable sharing views on controversial topics.

UNT maintains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and 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



42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% 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.

3.36 : 1

There are roughly 3.36 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+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

2

DEPLATFORMINGS

2