

The University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, 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

251 ▼

/261

▼ -11 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

5

2 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Texas at Dallas ranks 251 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 52 and an F speech climate grade. Multiple administrative actions involving the student press contributed to its ranking.

UT Dallas lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” showing little trust in officials to defend speech, and in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship,” as students frequently stay silent.

The campus earns a “red light” Spotlight rating. The University of Texas System’s board has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, which applies to UT Dallas, and the system has also affirmed institutional neutrality. UT Dallas should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. 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

Red



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.



63% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



30% 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

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

4

DEPLATFORMINGS

1