

Texas Tech University

Lubbock, TX • 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

193 ▼

/261

▼ -91 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

▼ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

2

2 FROM 2026

Overview

Texas Tech University ranks 193 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57 and an F speech climate grade, falling 91 places from last year.

Texas Tech ranks in the top 50 for “Political Tolerance,” showing student willingness to host controversial speakers. It lands in the bottom 50 for “Openness,” meaning contentious topics feel off-limits, and tumbled 137 places from last year into the bottom 50 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas” this year, showing discomfort with sharing views.

Texas Tech retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student codes to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Texas Tech should clearly and forcefully 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



49% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



70% 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.

1.02 : 1

There are roughly 1.02 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

2

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0