

Utah State University

Logan, UT • 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

54 ▲
/261

▲ 87 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Utah State University ranks 54 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 66 and a D speech climate grade, rising 87 places and gaining 8 points from last year.

USU ranks in the top 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. Its “Self-Censorship” rank jumped 173 places from last year into the top 50, meaning students report less hesitancy to speak.

USU retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has adopted institutional neutrality. It should revise its student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. USU should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the university’s commitment to free speech and build community trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

[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



33% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



57% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



16% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.05 : 1

There are roughly 1.05 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O