

The University of Utah

Salt Lake City, 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

131 ▼

/261

▼ -43 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

1 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Utah ranks 131 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade. It was penalized after administrators required a student to alter event signage.

Utah ranks in the top 25 for “Political Tolerance,” showing greater student willingness to host controversial speakers. It lands in the top 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” indicating lower student acceptance of non-peaceful protest, but lands in the bottom 25 for “Openness,” meaning contentious topics feel off-limits.

Utah 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 a commitment to institutional neutrality. Utah 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



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



65% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



22% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.82 : 1

There are roughly 1.82 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

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0