University of Vermont

Burlington, VT • 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
178 ▲
/261
▲ 35 FROM 2025

GRADE
F
F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
1
0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Vermont ranks 178 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 58 and an F speech climate grade, climbing 35 places from last year.

UVM ranks in the top 25 for "Self-Censorship," meaning students report less hesitancy to speak. However, it lands in the bottom 25 for "Disruptive Conduct," signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

UVM maintains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality. UVM 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.

Spotlight Rating
Yellow



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

27

27% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

86

86% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

32

32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

17.09 : 1

There are roughly 17.09 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

▼ DECREASE

OPENNESS

C+

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1