Virginia Tech University

Blacksburg, VA • 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

89 ▲

/261

▲ 3 FROM 2025

GRADE

D

▲ D- FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ranks 89 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 63 and a D speech climate grade.

Virginia Tech ranks in the top 50 for "Self-Censorship," meaning students report comparatively less hesitancy to speak. Its rank for "Disruptive Conduct" jumped 142 places from last year, showing reduced student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. The data shows no bottom 50 weaknesses.

Virginia Tech has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement but retains a "yellow light" Spotlight rating. It should revise its student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

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

33

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

65

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

24

24% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.47 : 1

There are roughly 2.47 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B−

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0