Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN • *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

7 ▼

/261

▼ -5 **FROM 2025**

GRADE

C+

C+ **FROM 2025**

CONTROVERSIES

0

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Purdue University ranks 7 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 77 and a C+ speech climate grade. Purdue earns a "green light" Spotlight rating and has adopted both the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and an official commitment to institutional neutrality.

The campus ranks in the top 50 for "Political Tolerance," showing comparatively greater student willingness to host speakers across the ideological spectrum. Its "Disruptive Conduct" rank jumped 128 places from last year into the top 50, indicating lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Purdue should respond clearly and forcefully 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

Spotlight Rating

Green



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



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



64% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



27% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.04 : 1

There are roughly 2.04 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B–

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D–

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0