



Minnesota

3 schools ranked



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.

AVERAGE RANK

163 ▲

/257

▲ 39 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

Three Minnesota schools are ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The state’s average speech-climate grade is F, matching the national average.

Carleton College ranks 116 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It performs best in the country on the “Self-Censorship” component, suggesting that Carleton students are the least likely to hold back their views. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities ranks 146 and has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement. Macalester College ranks 228 and holds a “red light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression. None of the three schools have adopted a statement on institutional neutrality.

All three campuses should remove restrictive speech codes and expand institutional commitments to free expression to improve their free-speech climates.

If you have questions, reach out to fire@thefire.org or visit us at <https://rankings.thefire.org/>.

HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



77% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



38% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.26 : 1

Across Minnesota, there are roughly 4.26 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

2

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

1

NEW IN 2025

0