



New Jersey

6 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

171 ▼

/257

▼ 24 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

4

— 2 FROM 2025

Overview

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

New Jersey Institute of Technology ranks 83 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. The other five — Rowan University, Montclair State University, Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Princeton University — all rank below 100 and earn F grades. Princeton is the only school in the state that has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement.

Two schools, Princeton and Stevens, hold “red light” ratings in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning their written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression. None of the six schools has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality. Reforming restrictive policies and expanding institutional commitments to expressive rights would help raise New Jersey’s bottom-heavy rankings.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



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



70% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



33% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.38 : 1

Across New Jersey, there are roughly 2.38 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASED

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

4

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

1