



New Mexico

2 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

119 ▲

/257

▲ 6 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

▼ DECREASED

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

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

New Mexico State University ranks 99 overall and performs well on “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” suggesting students feel relatively at ease sharing their views. The University of New Mexico ranks 139. Both schools earn F grades and hold “yellow light” ratings in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning at least one written policy threatens student expression.

Neither school has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality. Improving written policies and publicly committing to expressive rights could help both campuses build stronger 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.



66% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



30% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.93:1

Across New Mexico, there are roughly 1.93 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASED

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

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HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

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ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

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NEW IN 2025

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