



New York

19 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

180 ▼

/257

▼ 5 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

28

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

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

Syracuse University ranks 76 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It is also the only school in New York to earn above an F grade. Syracuse has adopted both the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality. It holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies contain at least one provision that threatens student expression.

Colgate University, Columbia University, and the University at Buffalo have adopted the Chicago Statement but not neutrality. Barnard College ranks 257 and is the bottom-ranked school in the country, performing poorly across nearly all student survey components. Columbia University ranks 256 — second to last. Colgate and Clarkson University hold “red light” ratings, meaning their written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression.

Most of the remaining campuses maintain “yellow light” ratings and have not adopted major free-speech reforms. Improving written policies and expanding institutional commitments to expressive rights could help address the schools’ consistently poor speech climates.

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.



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

4.64:1

Across New York, there are roughly 4.64 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

5

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

9

DEPLATFORMINGS

14

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

3

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

4

NEW IN 2025

1