



North Dakota

1 school 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

114 ▲

/257

▲ 11 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

One North Dakota school is ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. North Dakota State University ranks 114 overall and earns an F speech-climate grade.

NDSU performs relatively well on “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting students are less likely to support efforts to shout down or block a speaker. It holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies threaten student expression. NDSU has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

Clarifying campus policies and publicly committing to expressive rights could help NDSU improve its free-speech climate.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



44% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



63% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



24% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.11:1

Across North Dakota, there are roughly 2.11 conservative students for every one liberal student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

— NO CHANGE

OPENNESS

D+

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

0