



Rhode Island

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

170 ▼

/257

▼ 3 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

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

The University of Rhode Island ranks 152 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies threaten student expression. It has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

Brown University ranks 187 and also holds a “yellow light” rating. It has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality but has not adopted the Chicago Statement. Clarifying speech-related policies and adopting stronger public commitments could help both campuses improve their speech climates.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



46% 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.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.17:1

Across Rhode Island, there are roughly 3.17 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D-

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

2

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

1