



Utah

3 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

100 ▲

/257

▲ 58 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

▼ DECREASED

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

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

Utah Valley University ranks 71 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It performs well on “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting students are less likely to support efforts to shout down or block a speaker. UVU holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database, meaning its written policies contain at least one provision that threatens student expression. It has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

The University of Utah ranks 88 and also holds a “yellow light” rating. Utah State University ranks 141 and holds a “red light” rating, meaning its written policies clearly and substantially restrict protected expression. Utah State has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality. Adopting the Chicago Statement and revising restrictive policies would help improve these schools’ free-speech climates.

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.



55% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



25% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.13:1

Across Utah, there are roughly 1.13 conservative students for every one liberal student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D+

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

0