



West Virginia

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

153 ▼

/257

▼ 56 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 1 FROM 2025

Overview

One West Virginia school is ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. West Virginia University ranks 153 overall and earns an F speech-climate grade.

WVU 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.

Clarifying speech-related policies and adopting stronger public commitments could help WVU improve its free-speech climate.

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.



72% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



31% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.16:1

Across West Virginia, there are roughly 1.16 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2025

1