



Arkansas

2 schools ranked



College Free Speech
RANKINGS

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

188 ▼

/261

▼ -86 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

F

▼ DECREASED

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

3

— 2 IN 2026

Overview

Two Arkansas schools are ranked in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. The state's average speech climate grade is F, below the national average of D-.

Arkansas State University ranks 134 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. ASU ranks in the bottom 50 for "Self-Censorship," suggesting students frequently withhold their views. It holds a "yellow light" rating in FIRE's Spotlight database.

The University of Arkansas follows at 242 and earns an F speech climate grade. UA ranks in the bottom 50 for "Openness," indicating students feel uncomfortable discussing controversial topics. Like ASU, it holds a yellow light rating. Neither school has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality. Adopting these commitments and revising restrictive student policies would help improve these schools' speech climates.

If you have questions, reach out to fire@fire.org or visit us at rankings.fire.org/.



HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



61% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



33% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.21:1

Across Arkansas, there are roughly 1.21 conservative students for every one liberal student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

— NO CHANGE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D+

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

3

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2026

2