



Florida

7 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

96 ▼
/261

▼ -22 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

D

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

8

— 3 IN 2026

Overview

Seven Florida schools are ranked in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. The state's average speech climate grade is D, compared to the national average of D-.

Florida State University ranks 21 overall, the highest in the state, followed by the University of South Florida at 22. Both hold “green light” ratings in FIRE’s Spotlight database. The State University System of Florida’s Board of Governors has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, applying to all six ranked public schools.

Florida International University ranks 83 and performs especially well for “Self-Censorship,” suggesting students rarely hold back their views. The University of Miami ranks lowest in the state at 253 and holds a “red light” rating. Reforming restrictive written student policies and adopting institutional neutrality would improve speech climates.

Some may wonder how Florida schools can earn a “green light” speech code rating or rank highly in the College Free Speech Rankings while FIRE is simultaneously litigating against the state’s Stop WOKE Act, which restricts instruction on certain concepts related to “race, color, national origin, or sex.” The answer lies in FIRE’s methodology: the speech code ratings and rankings reflect policies affecting student expression, not classroom instruction or faculty speech. Likewise, the survey component of the rankings captures the experiences of students — not faculty members — on their campuses.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



41% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



65% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



30% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.53:1

Across Florida, there are roughly 1.53 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C-

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

2

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

4

DEPLATFORMINGS

2

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2026

3