



Michigan

7 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

112 ▼
/261

▼ -2 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

D

▲ INCREASED

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

5

— 1 IN 2026

Overview

Seven Michigan 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-.

Michigan Technological University ranks 4 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. MTU holds a “green light” Spotlight rating and ranks first in the country for “Political Tolerance,” suggesting openness to controversial speakers. It has adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement.

Michigan State University (70) has adopted the Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. The University of Michigan's Board of Regents has affirmed both, yet UM is the lowest-ranked school in the state at 166. Western Michigan University (110) has adopted only neutrality. Every school other than MTU holds a “yellow light” rating. Revising restrictive student policies and expanding public commitments 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



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



67% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.54:1

Across Michigan, there are roughly 2.54 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C-

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D-

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

4

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

2

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2026

1