



Minnesota

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

176 ▼

/261

▼ -13 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

2

— 1 IN 2026

Overview

Three Minnesota 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-.

Carleton College ranks 116 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database and ranks in the top 25 for “Openness,” suggesting students can freely discuss difficult topics.

The University of Minnesota and Macalester College follow at ranks 204 and 207, respectively. UMN holds a yellow light rating and ranks in the bottom 25 for “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” suggesting students struggle to speak openly. Its faculty senate has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality. Macalester holds a “red light” rating. Reforming restrictive written student policies and officially adopting public commitments to expression 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



41% 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.



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

4.87:1

Across Minnesota, there are roughly 4.87 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

F

▼ DECREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

1

NEW IN 2026

1