



Missouri

6 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

77 ▼
/261

▼ -2 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

D

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 IN 2026

Overview

Six Missouri 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-.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis ranks 17 overall and is the state's top-ranked school. UMSL holds a "green light" rating in FIRE's Spotlight database and ranks in the top 25 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas," suggesting students can speak freely. The University of Missouri-Columbia ranks 30 and also holds a green light rating. Both schools have adopted the Chicago Statement.

Washington University in St. Louis (56) has also adopted the Chicago Statement and is the only Missouri school whose faculty senate has affirmed institutional neutrality. WashU and the remaining three schools hold "yellow light" ratings. Missouri State University ranks lowest at 141. Reforming written student policies and adopting institutional neutrality 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



37% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



64% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



28% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.22:1

Across Missouri, there are roughly 2.22 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B-

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D+

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

O

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

O

NEW IN 2026

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