



Pennsylvania

15 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

178 ▼
/261

▼ -2 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

16

— 11 IN 2026

Overview

Fifteen Pennsylvania 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-.

Franklin & Marshall College ranks 62 overall and is the state's top-ranked school. It holds a "yellow light" rating in FIRE's Spotlight database. F&M has officially adopted both the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and a statement on institutional neutrality.

Gettysburg College (85) and Lehigh University (128) have also adopted the Chicago Statement, while the University of Pennsylvania (227) is the only other school to have adopted institutional neutrality. Most of the campuses maintain yellow light ratings. Lafayette College, Villanova University, and Drexel University hold "red light" ratings and rank near the bottom.

Reforming written student policies and reinforcing public commitments to expressive rights 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



42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



71% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



32% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.28:1

Across Pennsylvania, there are roughly 3.28 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▼ DECREASED

OPENNESS

C

▲ INCREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

10

DEPLATFORMINGS

6

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

4

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

1

NEW IN 2026

11