



Texas

12 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

160 ▼

/261

▼ -31 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

25

— 12 IN 2026

Overview

Twelve Texas 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-.

The University of Texas at El Paso ranks 48 overall and is the state's top-ranked school. It holds a "yellow light" rating in FIRE's Spotlight database. The University of Texas System's board has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality, applying it to UTEP and several other campuses.

Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Arlington follow at 52 and 53, respectively. Texas A&M University earns the state's only "green light" rating but ranks 192. Rice University and the University of Texas at Dallas hold "red light" ratings and fall in the bottom 50 alongside the University of North Texas and Texas State University. Reforming restrictive student policies 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.



68% 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.

2.88:1

Across Texas, there are roughly 2.88 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

D+

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

8

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

9

DEPLATFORMINGS

8

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

1

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

0

NEW IN 2026

12