



Washington

2 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

177 ▼
/261

▼ -20 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

7

— 4 IN 2026

Overview

Two Washington 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-.

Washington State University ranks 93 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database. WSU has adopted a statement on institutional neutrality but has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement.

The University of Washington follows near the bottom of the rankings at 260. It also holds a yellow light rating. UW ranks in the bottom 50 for “Disruptive Conduct,” suggesting students are more likely to support protests that silence speakers. Unlike WSU, UW has not adopted a statement on institutional neutrality. Adopting the Chicago Statement and reforming restrictive written student policies would help improve these schools’ speech climates.

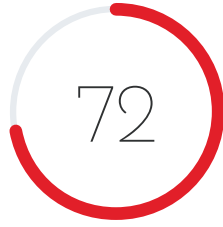
If you have questions, reach out to fire@fire.org or visit us at rankings.fire.org/.



HIGHLIGHTS



40% 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.

4.19:1

Across Washington, there are roughly 4.19 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

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

— NO CHANGE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

1

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

6

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

1

NEW IN 2026

4