

Wisconsin

4 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

102 ▲

/261

▲ 9 FROM 2025

AVERAGE GRADE

D

▲ INCREASED

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

1

— 0 IN 2026

Overview

Four Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin-Eau Claire ranks 51 overall and is the top-ranked school in the state. It holds a "yellow light" Spotlight rating and ranks in the top 10 for "Administrative Support," suggesting students trust administrators to defend speech.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee follow at ranks 61 and 66. Both hold yellow light ratings. The University of Wisconsin System has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality, applying to all three public campuses. Marquette University ranks 231 and holds a "red light" rating. It lacks both commitments. 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



39% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



29% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

2.55:1

Across Wisconsin, there are roughly 2.55 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
▲ INCREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
D-
▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE
F
▼ DECREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE
0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE
0

DEPLATFORMINGS
1

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS
0

ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS
1

NEW IN 2026
0