

Texas State University

San Marcos, TX • Public School



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.

OVERALL RANK

259 ▼

/261

▼ -147 FROM 2025

GRADE

F

F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

4

0 FROM 2026

Overview

Texas State University ranks 259 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 48 and an F speech climate grade, falling 147 places and losing 11 points from last year.

Texas State lands in the bottom 25 for “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest. It also tumbled 133 places after ranking in the top 25 last year for “Administrative Support,” indicating students doubt officials will defend speech. The data shows no top 50 strengths.

The campus maintains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Texas State should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

Spotlight Rating

Yellow



FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@fire.org.

Visit our website, rankings.fire.org, for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS



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



73% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



41% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.22 : 1

There are roughly 1.22 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▼ DECREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

2

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

1