

## 2027 College Free Speech Rankings **Cornell University**

219

OVERALL  
RANK

F

SPEECH  
CLIMATE

YELLOW

SPOTLIGHT  
RATING



**FIRE**

Foundation for Individual  
Rights and Expression

# Executive Summary

---

**FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR** in a row, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), a nonprofit organization committed to defending and sustaining the individual rights of all Americans to free speech and free thought, and College Pulse surveyed college undergraduates about their perceptions and experiences regarding free speech on their campuses. The College Free Speech Rankings combine student survey data, written speech policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

This year's survey includes 62,997 student respondents from 262 colleges and universities. Students who were enrolled in four-year degree programs were surveyed via the College Pulse mobile app and web portal from Jan. 2 through June 3, 2026. The College Free Speech Rankings are available [online](#) and are presented in an interactive dashboard that allows for easy comparison between institutions. The full pre-registered methodology is available on the Open Science Framework's [website](#).

We surveyed 289 Cornell University undergraduates. Key findings include:

- Cornell University ranks 219 out of 261<sup>1</sup> schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. The university earned a score of 55.5 and received a speech climate grade of F.
- Within the Ivy League, Cornell ranks near the bottom, behind Dartmouth (6), Harvard (71), Yale (72), Brown (98), and Princeton (176), but ahead of Penn (227), and Columbia (246).
- Cornell's strongest survey result was on "Political Tolerance," which measures students' willingness to allow controversial speakers on campus. Cornell students were more likely than students nationally to allow all six controversial speakers asked about in the survey.
- Cornell students were more likely than students nationally to say the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is difficult to discuss openly and honestly on campus.
- Cornell students self-censored at rates similar to those reported nationally across all four settings tested in the survey.
- A large majority, 77%, of Cornell students said shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus was at least "rarely" acceptable.
- "Administrative Support" is Cornell's second-worst survey component.
- Cornell performed worst on "Comfort Expressing Ideas," which measures how comfortable students feel expressing controversial political views in campus settings. Especially large shares of Cornell students reported discomfort about disagreeing publicly with professors and about posting unpopular political opinions on social media.

---

<sup>1</sup> This year, 262 colleges and universities were surveyed. One school, Regis University, was given a Warning rating for its speech policies and was therefore excluded from the rankings. As a result the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings includes 261 colleges and universities. The detailed methodology can be found at [rankings.fire.org/methodology](https://rankings.fire.org/methodology).

- Cornell has a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official commitment to institutional neutrality. Had Cornell earned a “green light” rating this year, it would have ranked 57 instead of 219.
- Cornell’s score was influenced by one 2025 speech controversy. The university cancelled Kehlani’s Slope Day performance after controversy over the artist’s earlier comments critical of Israel.

## CORNELL STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF FREE SPEECH

### Students are comparatively tolerant of controversial speakers

Cornell University ranks 51 on “Political Tolerance.” This is Cornell’s best student survey component. The rank declined from 37 last year, but Cornell still performs better here than it does on most other free speech components.

Cornell students were more willing than students nationally to allow every controversial speaker asked about in the survey. The gap between Cornell students and students nationally was especially large for the controversial liberal speakers who said “children should be able to transition without parental consent,” “the police are just as racist as the Ku Klux Klan,” and “the Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.”

- 25% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “Black Lives Matter is a hate group.” Nationally, 22% of students would allow this speaker.
- 28% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “transgender people have a mental disorder.” Nationally, 26% of students would allow this speaker.
- 51% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “abortion should be completely illegal.” Nationally, 40% of students would allow this speaker.
- 51% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “the Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.” Nationally, 36% of students would allow this speaker.
- 54% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “the police are just as racist as the Ku Klux Klan.” Nationally, 36% of students would allow this speaker.
- 69% of Cornell students would allow a speaker who says “children should be able to transition without parental consent.” Nationally, 47% of students would allow this speaker.

## Cornell Students Who Would Allow Each Speaker on Campus (%)

- Transgender people have a mental disorder.
- Abortion should be completely illegal.
- Black Lives Matter is a hate group.
- The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.
- The police are just as racist as the Ku Klux Klan.
- Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

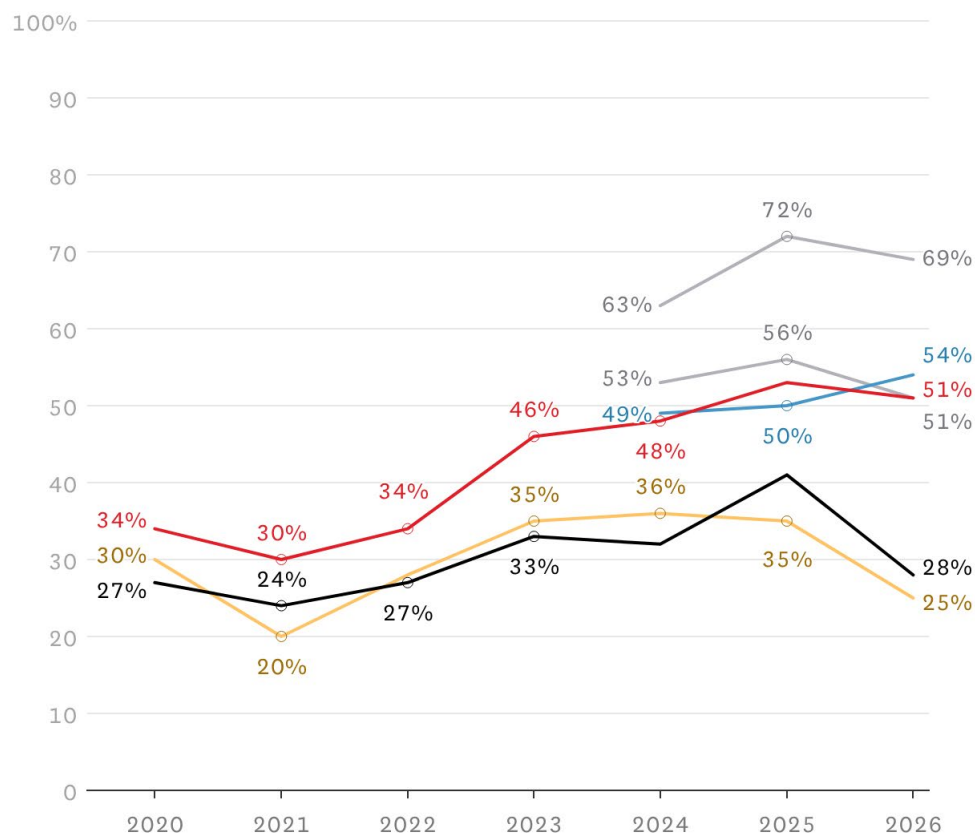


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

### One topic dominates Cornell's openness problem

Cornell University ranks 103 on "Openness."

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was by far the most difficult topic for Cornell students to discuss openly and honestly. At Cornell, 70% of students selected it, compared with 50% of students nationally. No other topic came close.

Cornell students also identified Donald Trump (39%), transgender rights (37%), Charlie Kirk (35%), immigration (32%), gun control (30%), and racial inequality (30%) as difficult topics. Compared with students nationally, Cornell students were more likely to identify the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as difficult to discuss, but less likely to say Donald Trump, Charlie Kirk, abortion, immigration, and gun control were difficult to discuss.

## Cornell Students Who Have Difficulty Talking About Each Topic (%)

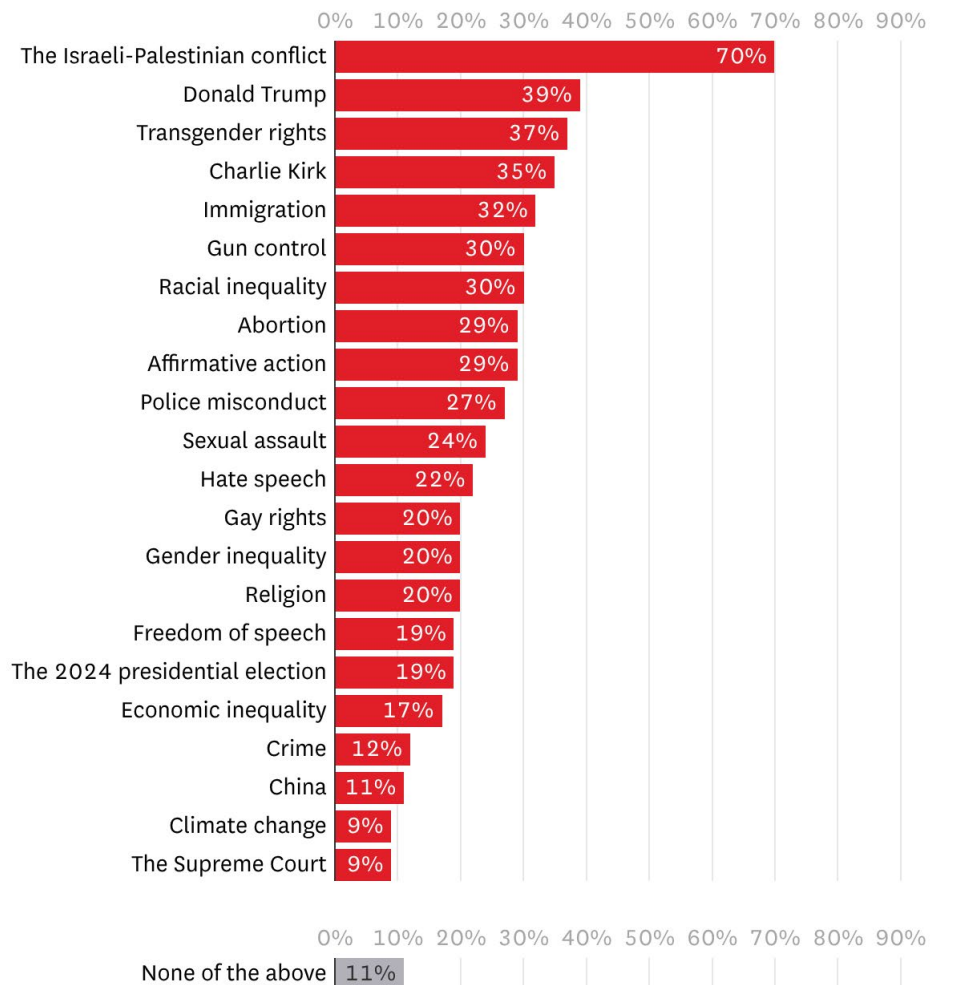


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

## Self-censorship sits near the national average

Cornell University ranks 105 on “Self-Censorship.”

Cornell students self-censored at rates similar to those reported nationally across the four settings tested in the survey:

- In conversations with other students on campus, 61% of Cornell students said they self-censored at least “occasionally,” compared with 57% of students nationally.
- In conversations with professors, 59% of Cornell students said they self-censored at least “occasionally,” matching the national result.
- During classroom discussions, 63% of Cornell students said they self-censored at least “occasionally,” matching the national result.

### Cornell Students Who Engage In Self-Censorship At Least Occasionally (%)

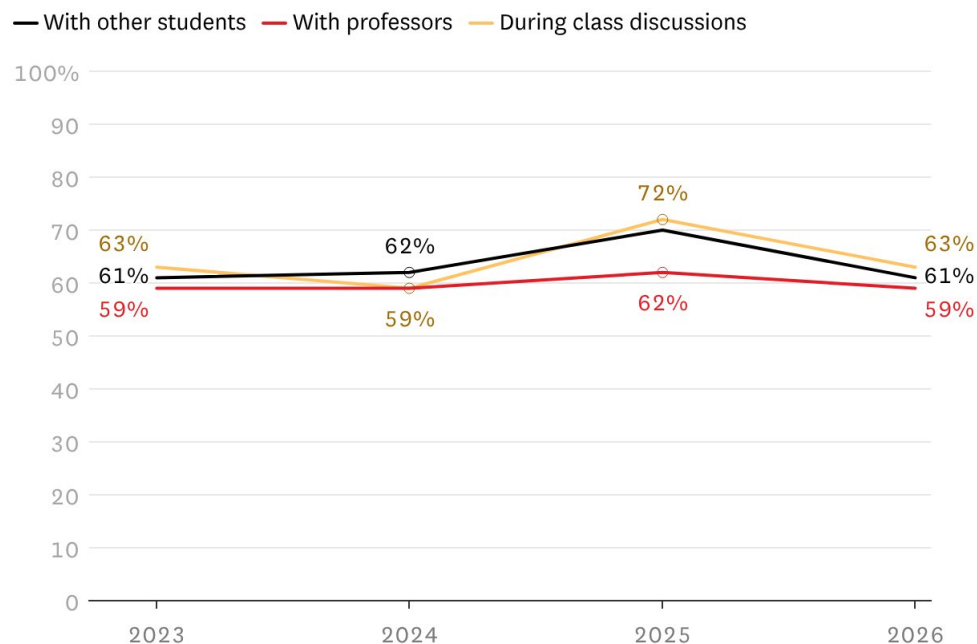


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

In conversations with school administrators, 55% of Cornell students said they self-censored at least “occasionally,” compared with 57% of students nationally. At Cornell, 24% said they did so at least “a couple of times a week,” compared with 27% nationally.

Cornell's self-censorship rank improved significantly from last year, when it ranked 236. The comparison is imperfect because the 2027 rankings added a new self-censorship question about conversations with school administrators. Still, another relevant measure worsened: 50% of Cornell students said they felt at least "occasionally" that they could not express an opinion because of how students, a professor, or the administration would respond, up from 45% last year and higher than the national result of 40%.

## Acceptance of disruptive conduct remains high

Cornell University ranks 196 on "Disruptive Conduct."

A large majority of Cornell students said shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus was at least "rarely" acceptable. At Cornell, 77% of students found shoutdowns at least "rarely" acceptable, compared with 69% of students nationally. This was lower than last year's 80% at Cornell, but still higher than Cornell's 2025 and 2024 results.

Cornell students were also more accepting than students nationally of blocking other students from attending a campus speech. At Cornell, 56% said blocking access was at least "rarely" acceptable, compared with 50% nationally.

On violence, Cornell students closely matched the national result. At Cornell, 32% said using violence to stop a campus speech was at least "rarely" acceptable, compared with 31% nationally. Cornell's acceptance of violence declined from 36% last year, but it remains higher than it was in the 2024 and 2025 rankings.

**Cornell Students Who Said a Type of Disruptive Conduct Was At Least Rarely Acceptable (%)**

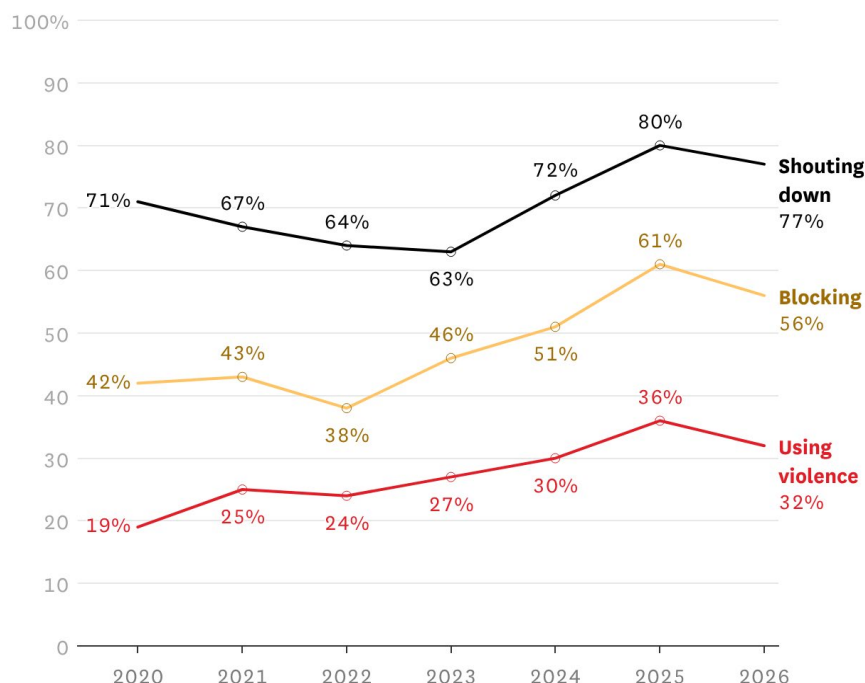


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

Although the overall share of students who viewed each form of disruptive conduct as at least “rarely” acceptable declined, acceptance intensified among those who still approved of it, offsetting those gains and leaving Cornell’s score on this component unchanged.

### Students doubt administrative support for speech

Cornell University ranks 247 on “Administrative Support.” This is Cornell’s second-worst survey component. Cornell ranked 204 last year and 210 the year before.

Only 20% of Cornell students said it was “very” or “extremely” clear that the administration protects free speech on campus, compared with 40% of students nationally. Meanwhile, 36% of Cornell students said it was “not at all” or “not very” clear that the administration protects free speech, compared with 17% of students nationally.

Students were also skeptical that Cornell would defend a speaker’s rights during a controversy. Only 19% of Cornell students said it was “very” or “extremely” likely that the administration would defend a speaker’s right to express their views if a controversy over offensive speech occurred on campus, compared with 26% of students nationally. At Cornell, 35% said this was “not at all” or “not very” likely, compared with 24% nationally.

These results suggest a trust problem. Cornell’s written policies contain strong statements about open inquiry, but many students were not confident that the administration would protect expression when controversy arises.

### Student Perspectives in Cornell's Administrative Support (%)

- Very or extremely clear that college administration protects free speech on campus
- If a controversy over offensive speech were to occur on campus, it is very or extremely likely that the administration would defend the speaker's right to express their views

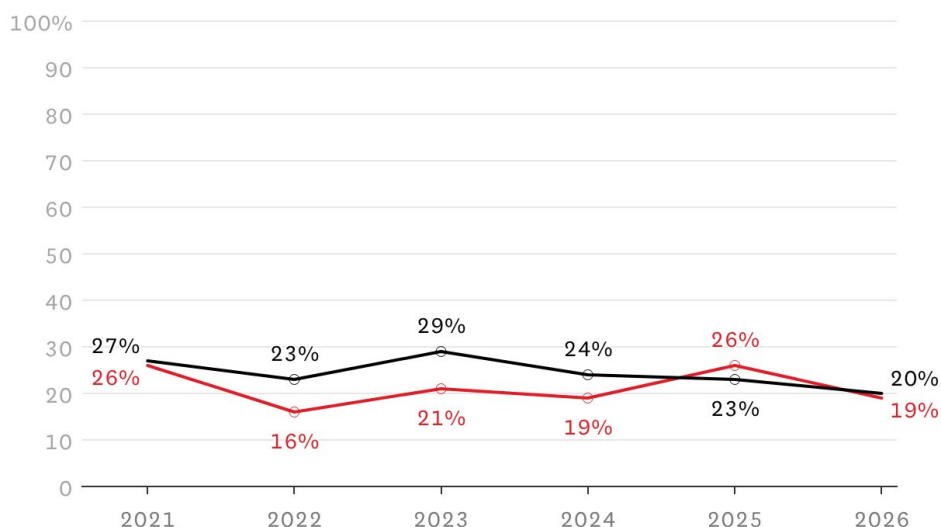


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

## Students feel uncomfortable expressing controversial views

Cornell University ranks 256 on “Comfort Expressing Ideas.” This is Cornell’s weakest survey component. Cornell ranked 224 last year, 236 in the 2025 College Free Speech Rankings, and 142 in 2024. Its current ranking places it near the bottom nationally.

Cornell students were especially uncomfortable disagreeing publicly with professors. At Cornell, 72% said they would feel at least “somewhat uncomfortable” publicly disagreeing with a professor about a controversial political topic, compared with 57% of students nationally.

A majority of Cornell students also felt uncomfortable disagreeing with professors in written assignments. At Cornell, 57% said they would feel at least “somewhat uncomfortable” expressing disagreement with a professor about a controversial political topic in a written assignment, compared with 47% nationally.

In classroom discussion, 58% of Cornell students said they would feel at least “somewhat uncomfortable” expressing their views on a controversial political topic, compared with 48% nationally. In common campus spaces, 51% of Cornell students said the same, compared with 43% nationally.

Social media was the least comfortable setting. At Cornell, 74% of students said they would feel at least “somewhat uncomfortable” expressing an unpopular political opinion on a social media account tied to their name, compared with 62% nationally.

### Cornell Students Who Felt At Least Somewhat Uncomfortable by Context (%)

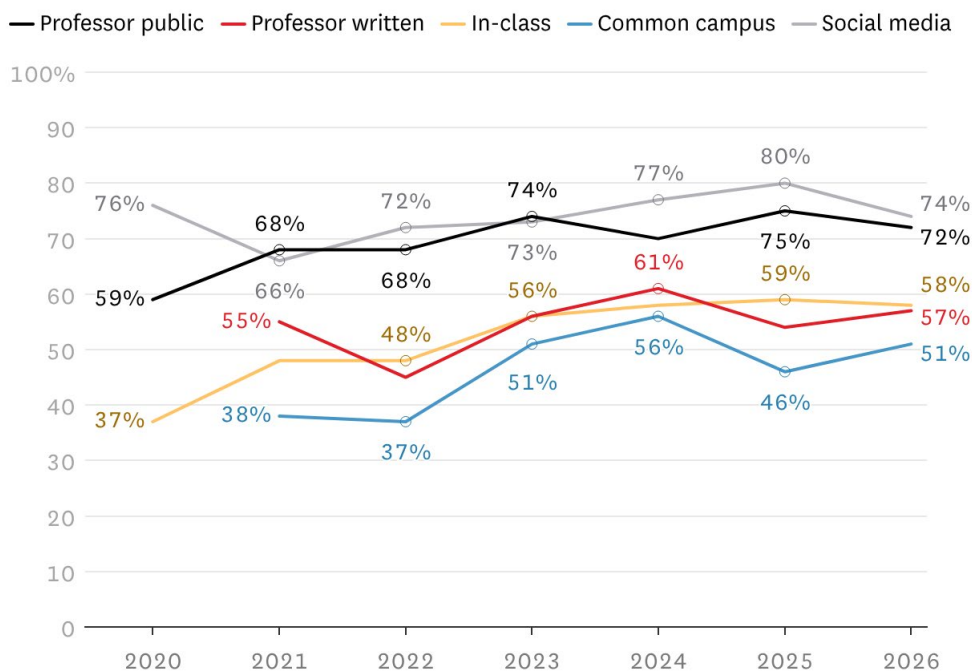


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

## A ‘YELLOW LIGHT’ SCHOOL WITHOUT CHICAGO STATEMENT OR INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

Cornell earns an overall “yellow light” **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The university maintains three yellow light policies and three “green light” policies. One of the university’s harassment policies fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment in an educational setting, putting protected speech that does not reach that threshold at risk. The university also encourages students to report “bias activities” and “bias related incidents” while conflating these terms with harassment and discrimination. This makes largely unpopular but nevertheless-protected expression punishable by the administration. The administration should instead focus its resources on reports of discrimination and harassment, and refrain from soliciting reports of subjective bias.

In addition to these rated policies, Cornell has not adopted a version of the Chicago Statement or institutional neutrality.

## PRIOR SPEECH CONTROVERSIES STILL AFFECT CORNELL’S RANKING

Two 2025 speech controversies impacted Cornell’s score.

The first involved the attempted disruption of a “Pathways to Peace” panel moderated by Ryan Crocker, the former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon. Aimed at discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and exploring avenues for peace, the panel featured former Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and former U.S. ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro. During the event, pro-Palestinian students chanted and leveled accusations against Livni, including shouting “500 children in 2014 and you killed them. You are a butcher.” Seventeen individuals were removed and detained by University Police before the event resumed. Following the event, then interim university president Michael Kotliff issued a statement condemning the students’ actions and emphasizing the importance of free expression and dialogue in the educational process. For this response, the university received a bonus point which mitigated one of the initial two penalty points. The remaining penalty point has since decayed.

However, the university continues to be penalized for its cancellation of a performance by Grammy-nominated R&B artist Kehlani, who had been scheduled to headline the university’s annual Slope Day event. Shortly after the announcement, backlash mounted over Kehlani’s history of anti-Israel statements, including a widely publicized chant of “Fuck Israel” and “Fuck Zionism” at a pro-Palestinian protest earlier in the year. Critics, including students, alumni, and members of Congress, argued that her rhetoric was inflammatory and inappropriate for a university-sponsored event. A petition circulated via Google Forms urged the university to cancel the performance, citing her political statements as incompatible with Cornell’s values. U.S. Senator Rick Scott, Representative Lisa McClain, and Representative Mike Lawler publicly called for Kehlani to be disinvited, amplifying pressure on the administration. In response to the backlash, the university rescinded Kehlani’s invitation. For this the university was penalized two points, after decay.

## HOW CAN CORNELL IMPROVE?

Cornell University's clearest path to improvement is policy reform. Cornell should revise its "yellow light" speech policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating. Had Cornell earned a green light rating this year, it would have ranked 57 instead of 219.

Cornell has already made some progress. The university worked with FIRE to revise its Expressive Activity Policy, and the current policy includes strong language on content and viewpoint neutrality, spontaneous protest, and the importance of open inquiry. Cornell should build on that progress by revising the policies that still earn yellow light ratings, especially rules on bias, harassment, and prohibited conduct that could restrict protected expression. The university should make clear that disciplinary action is reserved for unprotected expression and conduct, and that even deeply unpopular but protected expression will not be reported, investigated, or punished.

Cornell should also adopt the Chicago Statement or a substantially similar statement. Cornell has already moved toward institutional neutrality: Its Task Force on Institutional Voice recommended restraint in the use of institutional statements, and Cornell leadership said it would apply those principles when deciding whether to speak officially on social and political matters. To strengthen that commitment and receive credit in future rankings, Cornell should codify a formal policy that is substantially similar to the principles of institutional neutrality recognized in the rankings.

Cornell should also maintain a clear, viewpoint-neutral response plan for speech controversies. Recent controversies, including the deplatforming of singer Kehlani and the attempted disruption of an Israeli-Palestinian peace panel, showed the need for consistent rules that protect both speaker rights and protest rights. When controversies arise, administrators should state clearly that protected speech will remain protected, peaceful protest is allowed, and disruption or viewpoint-based punishment is not. This would help Cornell avoid future penalties and show students that its commitments apply even when pressure is highest.

Cornell could respond by turning its stated commitments into regular practice in classrooms, residence halls, student organizations, and public events. Faculty can support this by setting discussion norms, assigning serious competing arguments, encouraging students to restate opposing views fairly, and making clear that students are evaluated on reasoning, evidence, and command of the material rather than viewpoint. Cornell could also expand structured debates, forums, and courses on difficult subjects, especially the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which 70% of Cornell students identified as difficult to discuss openly and honestly.

Finally, Cornell should make its commitments visible and consistent. Administrators should explain why free expression, institutional neutrality, and open inquiry are central to the university's "any person, any study" mission. These steps could help Cornell translate its formal commitments into a stronger campus speech climate.

## Cornell's 2027 College Free Speech Rankings scores by component

| COMPONENT                | CORNELL<br>UNIVERSITY | NATIONAL<br>AVERAGE | MINIMUM<br>VALUE | MAXIMUM<br>VALUE |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Comfort Expressing Ideas | 9.09                  | 9.81                | 5                | 15               |
| Self-Censorship          | 12.86                 | 12.79               | 4                | 20               |
| Disruptive Conduct       | 15.30                 | 15.71               | 3                | 20               |
| Administrative Support   | 10.13                 | 11.66               | 2                | 20               |
| Openness                 | 7.45                  | 7.25                | 0                | 10               |
| Political Tolerance      | 7.64                  | 7.10                | 3                | 15               |
| Chicago Statement        | 0 (No)                | -                   | 0 (No)           | 3 (Yes)          |
| Institutional Neutrality | 0 (No)                | -                   | 0 (No)           | 3 (Yes)          |
| Spotlight Rating         | -5 (Yellow)           | -                   | -10 (Red)        | 5 (Green)        |
| Campus Deplatformings    | -2                    | -                   | ∞ Penalties      | ∞ Bonuses        |
| Scholars Under Fire      | 0                     | -                   | ∞ Penalties      | ∞ Bonuses        |
| Students Under Fire      | 0                     | -                   | ∞ Penalties      | ∞ Bonuses        |
| <b>Overall score</b>     | <b>55.48</b>          | <b>61.36</b>        | 7 + Penalties    | 111 + Bonuses    |

## Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

### Cornell University

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 289.

Margin of error = +/- 5.8%.

#### How clear is it to you that your college administration protects free speech on campus?

| Response         | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Not at all clear | 22         | 8%      | 23           |
| Not very clear   | 82         | 28%     | 82           |
| Somewhat clear   | 126        | 44%     | 130          |
| Very clear       | 51         | 18%     | 47           |
| Extremely clear  | 8          | 3%      | 7            |

#### If a controversy over offensive speech were to occur on your campus, how likely is it that the administration would defend the speaker's right to express their views?

| Response          | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Not at all likely | 15         | 5%      | 16           |
| Not very likely   | 87         | 30%     | 87           |
| Somewhat likely   | 132        | 46%     | 138          |
| Very likely       | 44         | 15%     | 39           |
| Extremely likely  | 10         | 4%      | 9            |

*How comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? [Presented in randomized order]*

#### Publicly disagreeing with a professor about a controversial political topic.

| Response               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Very uncomfortable     | 84         | 29%     | 65           |
| Somewhat uncomfortable | 123        | 42%     | 132          |
| Somewhat comfortable   | 64         | 22%     | 72           |
| Very comfortable       | 19         | 6%      | 20           |

#### Expressing disagreement with one of your professors about a controversial political topic in a written assignment.

| Response               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Very uncomfortable     | 53         | 18%     | 42           |
| Somewhat uncomfortable | 111        | 38%     | 119          |
| Somewhat comfortable   | 101        | 35%     | 108          |
| Very comfortable       | 24         | 8%      | 20           |

**Expressing your views on a controversial political topic during an in-class discussion.**

| Response               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Very uncomfortable     | 47         | 16%     | 43           |
| Somewhat uncomfortable | 122        | 42%     | 114          |
| Somewhat comfortable   | 99         | 34%     | 112          |
| Very comfortable       | 22         | 7%      | 20           |

**Expressing your views on a controversial political topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space such as a quad, dining hall, or lounge.**

| Response               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Very uncomfortable     | 48         | 17%     | 39           |
| Somewhat uncomfortable | 99         | 34%     | 100          |
| Somewhat comfortable   | 99         | 34%     | 105          |
| Very comfortable       | 44         | 15%     | 45           |

**Expressing an unpopular political opinion to your fellow students on a social media account tied to your name.**

| Response               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Very uncomfortable     | 100        | 35%     | 89           |
| Somewhat uncomfortable | 113        | 39%     | 117          |
| Somewhat comfortable   | 66         | 23%     | 73           |
| Very comfortable       | 9          | 3%      | 10           |

*This next series of questions asks you about self-censorship in different settings. For the purpose of these questions, self-censorship is defined as follows:*

*Refraining from sharing certain views because you fear social (e.g., exclusion from social events), professional (e.g., losing job or promotion), legal (e.g., prosecution or fine), or violent (e.g., assault) consequences, whether in person or remotely (e.g., by phone or online), and whether the consequences come from state or non-state sources. [Presented in randomized order]*

**How often do you self-censor during conversations with other students on campus?**

| Response                               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                                  | 36         | 12%     | 29           |
| Rarely                                 | 77         | 27%     | 80           |
| Occasionally, once or twice a month    | 116        | 40%     | 119          |
| Fairly often, a couple of times a week | 52         | 18%     | 49           |
| Very often, nearly every day           | 9          | 3%      | 12           |

**How often do you self-censor during conversations with your professors?**

| Response                               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                                  | 26         | 9%      | 21           |
| Rarely                                 | 93         | 32%     | 93           |
| Occasionally, once or twice a month    | 97         | 34%     | 106          |
| Fairly often, a couple of times a week | 54         | 19%     | 51           |
| Very often, nearly every day           | 19         | 7%      | 18           |

**How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?**

| Response                               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                                  | 17         | 6%      | 13           |
| Rarely                                 | 90         | 31%     | 91           |
| Occasionally, once or twice a month    | 99         | 34%     | 103          |
| Fairly often, a couple of times a week | 71         | 24%     | 65           |
| Very often, nearly every day           | 13         | 4%      | 17           |

**How often do you self-censor during conversations with school administrators?**

| Response                            | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                               | 45         | 16%     | 37           |
| Rarely                              | 85         | 30%     | 89           |
| Occasionally, once or twice a month | 89         | 31%     | 91           |
| Fairly often, a couple times a week | 51         | 18%     | 52           |
| Very often, nearly every day        | 19         | 6%      | 20           |

*How acceptable would you say it is for students to engage in the following action to protest a campus speaker? [Presented in randomized order]*

**Shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus.**

| Response             | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Always acceptable    | 13         | 5%      | 13           |
| Sometimes acceptable | 107        | 37%     | 119          |
| Rarely acceptable    | 101        | 35%     | 95           |
| Never acceptable     | 67         | 23%     | 62           |

**Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.**

| Response             | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Always acceptable    | 10         | 3%      | 10           |
| Sometimes acceptable | 54         | 19%     | 64           |
| Rarely acceptable    | 98         | 34%     | 103          |
| Never acceptable     | 128        | 44%     | 112          |

**Using violence to stop a campus speech.**

| Response             | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Always acceptable    | 4          | 1%      | 5            |
| Sometimes acceptable | 28         | 10%     | 37           |
| Rarely acceptable    | 60         | 21%     | 65           |
| Never acceptable     | 197        | 68%     | 182          |

*Student groups often invite speakers to campus to express their views on a range of topics. Regardless of your own views on the topic, should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who has previously expressed the following idea? [Presented in randomized order]*

**Transgender people have a mental disorder.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 101        | 35%     | 113          |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 105        | 36%     | 98           |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 66         | 23%     | 58           |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 16         | 5%      | 20           |

**Abortion should be completely illegal.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 63         | 22%     | 68           |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 79         | 27%     | 91           |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 118        | 41%     | 105          |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 30         | 10%     | 25           |

**Black Lives Matter is a hate group.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 107        | 37%     | 113          |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 109        | 38%     | 107          |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 54         | 19%     | 51           |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 19         | 7%      | 18           |

**The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 41         | 14%     | 48           |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 99         | 34%     | 103          |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 117        | 41%     | 109          |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 31         | 11%     | 29           |

**The police are just as racist as the Ku Klux Klan.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 45         | 16%     | 50           |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 89         | 31%     | 100          |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 121        | 42%     | 109          |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 34         | 12%     | 30           |

**Children should be able to transition without parental consent.**

| Response                                 | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Definitely should not allow this speaker | 19         | 7%      | 27           |
| Probably should not allow this speaker   | 72         | 25%     | 75           |
| Probably should allow this speaker       | 141        | 49%     | 136          |
| Definitely should allow this speaker     | 57         | 20%     | 51           |

*Some students say it can be difficult to have conversations about certain issues on campus. Which of the following issues, if any, would you say are difficult to have an open and honest conversation about on your campus? [Presented in randomized order with none of the above always listed last]*

**Abortion**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 205        | 71%     | 209          |
| Yes      | 84         | 29%     | 80           |

**Affirmative action**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 206        | 71%     | 208          |
| Yes      | 83         | 29%     | 81           |

**Charlie Kirk**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 187        | 65%     | 189          |
| Yes      | 102        | 35%     | 100          |

**China**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 257        | 89%     | 255          |
| Yes      | 32         | 11%     | 34           |

**Climate change**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 263        | 91%     | 263          |
| Yes      | 26         | 9%      | 26           |

**Crime**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 254        | 88%     | 261          |
| Yes      | 35         | 12%     | 28           |

**Donald Trump**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 176        | 61%     | 189          |
| Yes      | 113        | 39%     | 100          |

**Economic inequality**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 239        | 83%     | 237          |
| Yes      | 50         | 17%     | 52           |

**Freedom of speech**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 234        | 81%     | 236          |
| Yes      | 55         | 19%     | 53           |

**Gay rights**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 230        | 80%     | 231          |
| Yes      | 59         | 20%     | 58           |

**Gender inequality**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 231        | 80%     | 242          |
| Yes      | 58         | 20%     | 47           |

**Gun control**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 202        | 70%     | 214          |
| Yes      | 87         | 30%     | 75           |

**Hate speech**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 224        | 78%     | 225          |
| Yes      | 65         | 22%     | 64           |

**Immigration**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 196        | 68%     | 202          |
| Yes      | 93         | 32%     | 87           |

**The Israeli/Palestinian conflict**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 87         | 30%     | 95           |
| Yes      | 202        | 70%     | 194          |

**Police misconduct**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 211        | 73%     | 215          |
| Yes      | 78         | 27%     | 74           |

**The 2024 presidential election**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 235        | 81%     | 233          |
| Yes      | 54         | 19%     | 56           |

**Racial inequality**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 202        | 70%     | 215          |
| Yes      | 87         | 30%     | 74           |

**Religion**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 231        | 80%     | 223          |
| Yes      | 58         | 20%     | 66           |

**Sexual assault**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 219        | 76%     | 224          |
| Yes      | 70         | 24%     | 65           |

**The Supreme Court**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 264        | 91%     | 262          |
| Yes      | 25         | 9%      | 27           |

**Transgender rights**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 183        | 63%     | 190          |
| Yes      | 106        | 37%     | 99           |

**None of the above**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 258        | 89%     | 253          |
| Yes      | 31         | 11%     | 36           |

**On your campus, how often have you felt that you could not express your opinion on a subject because of how students, a professor, or the administration would respond?**

| Response                               | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                                  | 55         | 19%     | 43           |
| Rarely                                 | 90         | 31%     | 105          |
| Occasionally, once or twice a month    | 98         | 34%     | 91           |
| Fairly often, a couple of times a week | 29         | 10%     | 34           |
| Very often, nearly every day           | 18         | 6%      | 16           |

**Have you ever been disciplined by your college's administration for expression on campus?**

| Response                                                    | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Yes, I have been disciplined.                               | 4          | 1%      | 4            |
| No, but I have been threatened with discipline.             | 42         | 15%     | 43           |
| I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline. | 243        | 84%     | 242          |

*How often, if at all, do you think your college would punish you for saying ...*

**"Bigots who say hateful things deserve to be shot."**

| Response     | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never        | 31         | 11%     | 28           |
| Rarely       | 48         | 17%     | 47           |
| Sometimes    | 86         | 30%     | 87           |
| Fairly often | 87         | 30%     | 85           |
| Always       | 37         | 13%     | 41           |

**"Gun nuts worship their AR-15s more than they value human lives."**

| Response     | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never        | 97         | 33%     | 94           |
| Rarely       | 113        | 39%     | 104          |
| Sometimes    | 51         | 18%     | 56           |
| Fairly often | 18         | 6%      | 23           |
| Always       | 9          | 3%      | 11           |

**"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."**

| Response     | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never        | 80         | 28%     | 73           |
| Rarely       | 79         | 27%     | 76           |
| Sometimes    | 75         | 26%     | 79           |
| Fairly often | 45         | 16%     | 50           |
| Always       | 9          | 3%      | 10           |

**"Debate me. Prove me wrong."**

| Response     | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never        | 180        | 62%     | 172          |
| Rarely       | 53         | 19%     | 59           |
| Sometimes    | 44         | 15%     | 43           |
| Fairly often | 8          | 3%      | 9            |
| Always       | 3          | 1%      | 5            |

**"If a trans-identified male is in a female-only space, he is committing a violent, abusive act."**

| Response     | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never        | 57         | 20%     | 45           |
| Rarely       | 94         | 32%     | 93           |
| Sometimes    | 75         | 26%     | 81           |
| Fairly often | 54         | 19%     | 57           |
| Always       | 9          | 3%      | 12           |

*If a professor on your campus said any of the following statements on social media after Charlie Kirk's assassination, SHOULD THEY or SHOULD THEY NOT be fired from their job?*

**"It's O.K. to punch a Nazi."**

| Response                                                    | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| The professor definitely should not be fired from their job | 93         | 33%     | 93           |
| The professor probably should not be fired from their job   | 122        | 43%     | 125          |
| The professor probably should be fired from their job       | 44         | 16%     | 47           |
| The professor definitely should be fired from their job     | 23         | 8%      | 19           |

**"These fascist Bible-thumpers want to drag us back to the Dark Ages."**

| Response                                                    | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| The professor definitely should not be fired from their job | 39         | 14%     | 43           |
| The professor probably should not be fired from their job   | 140        | 49%     | 132          |
| The professor probably should be fired from their job       | 79         | 28%     | 82           |
| The professor definitely should be fired from their job     | 24         | 9%      | 27           |

**"We are going to make America great again."**

| Response                                                    | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| The professor definitely should not be fired from their job | 61         | 22%     | 56           |
| The professor probably should not be fired from their job   | 125        | 44%     | 127          |
| The professor probably should be fired from their job       | 75         | 26%     | 77           |
| The professor definitely should be fired from their job     | 21         | 7%      | 24           |

**"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."**

| Response                                                    | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| The professor definitely should not be fired from their job | 39         | 14%     | 42           |
| The professor probably should not be fired from their job   | 124        | 44%     | 127          |
| The professor probably should be fired from their job       | 83         | 29%     | 79           |
| The professor definitely should be fired from their job     | 37         | 13%     | 36           |

**How often do you attend church or religious services?**

| Response              | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                 | 101        | 36%     | 100          |
| Less than once a year | 28         | 10%     | 32           |
| Once or twice a year  | 50         | 18%     | 47           |
| Several times a year  | 36         | 13%     | 39           |
| Once a month          | 22         | 8%      | 20           |
| 2-3 times a month     | 15         | 5%      | 13           |
| About weekly          | 7          | 3%      | 10           |
| Weekly                | 12         | 4%      | 15           |
| Several times a week  | 10         | 4%      | 8            |

**Are you currently a member of the armed services?**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 277        | 98%     | 278          |
| Yes      | 5          | 2%      | 6            |

**Are you a veteran of the armed services?**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 281        | 100%    | 283          |
| Yes      | 1          | <1%     | 1            |

**How often would you say that you feel anxious?**

| Response                           | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                              | 7          | 10%     | 9            |
| Less than half the time            | 26         | 37%     | 24           |
| About half the time                | 17         | 24%     | 15           |
| Most of the time, nearly every day | 18         | 25%     | 15           |
| Always                             | 3          | 5%      | 2            |

**How often would you say that you feel lonely or isolated?**

| Response                           | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                              | 16         | 25%     | 12           |
| Less than half the time            | 27         | 43%     | 28           |
| About half the time                | 9          | 15%     | 14           |
| Most of the time, nearly every day | 10         | 16%     | 7            |
| Always                             | 1          | 2%      | 2            |

**How often would you say that you feel like you have no time for yourself?**

| Response                           | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                              | 11         | 19%     | 7            |
| Less than half the time            | 12         | 21%     | 13           |
| About half the time                | 19         | 33%     | 25           |
| Most of the time, nearly every day | 15         | 26%     | 17           |
| Always                             | 0.4        | 1%      | 1            |

**How often would you say that you feel depressed?**

| Response                           | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                              | 12         | 27%     | 8            |
| Less than half the time            | 21         | 47%     | 23           |
| About half the time                | 10         | 22%     | 14           |
| Most of the time, nearly every day | 2          | 3%      | 2            |
| Always                             | 0.5        | 1%      | 1            |

**How often would you say that you feel stressed, frustrated, or overwhelmed?**

| Response                           | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Never                              | 5          | 10%     | 2            |
| Less than half the time            | 8          | 15%     | 10           |
| About half the time                | 18         | 35%     | 18           |
| Most of the time, nearly every day | 14         | 28%     | 13           |
| Always                             | 6          | 12%     | 7            |

*Where do you get your news? Please select all that apply.*

**Social media**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 42         | 15%     | 42           |
| Yes      | 247        | 85%     | 247          |

**Television**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 181        | 62%     | 182          |
| Yes      | 108        | 38%     | 107          |

**Radio**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 261        | 90%     | 260          |
| Yes      | 28         | 10%     | 29           |

**Radio or television website**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 256        | 89%     | 253          |
| Yes      | 33         | 11%     | 36           |

**Podcast**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 235        | 81%     | 237          |
| Yes      | 54         | 19%     | 52           |

**Newspaper (print)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 278        | 96%     | 278          |
| Yes      | 11         | 4%      | 11           |

**Newspaper (online)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 134        | 46%     | 132          |
| Yes      | 155        | 54%     | 157          |

**Student newspaper (print)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 257        | 89%     | 265          |
| Yes      | 32         | 11%     | 24           |

**Student newspaper (online)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 197        | 68%     | 199          |
| Yes      | 92         | 32%     | 90           |

*What forms of violence, if any, do you consider acceptable to stop a campus speech?*

**Threats of bodily harm to people in attendance**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 285        | 99%     | 282          |
| Yes      | 4          | 1%      | 7            |

**Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 271        | 94%     | 270          |
| Yes      | 18         | 6%      | 19           |

**Physical assault on people in attendance**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 280        | 97%     | 274          |
| Yes      | 9          | 3%      | 15           |

**Physical assault on the speaker**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 280        | 97%     | 276          |
| Yes      | 9          | 3%      | 13           |

**Throwing projectiles (e.g., pies, eggs, rocks, bottles)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 277        | 96%     | 274          |
| Yes      | 12         | 4%      | 15           |

**Use of chemical irritants (e.g., bear spray)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 285        | 99%     | 281          |
| Yes      | 4          | 1%      | 8            |

**Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 285        | 99%     | 284          |
| Yes      | 4          | 1%      | 5            |

**Smoke or "stink" bombs to force evacuation of the event**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 279        | 97%     | 276          |
| Yes      | 10         | 3%      | 13           |

**Bomb threats**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 284        | 98%     | 281          |
| Yes      | 5          | 2%      | 8            |

**Use of sharp objects (e.g., knife)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 285        | 99%     | 282          |
| Yes      | 4          | 1%      | 7            |

**Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 285        | 99%     | 282          |
| Yes      | 4          | 1%      | 7            |

**Arson**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 283        | 98%     | 278          |
| Yes      | 6          | 2%      | 11           |

**Kidnapping**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 284        | 98%     | 281          |
| Yes      | 5          | 2%      | 8            |

**Detaining or restraining people**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 282        | 98%     | 279          |
| Yes      | 7          | 2%      | 10           |

**Murder**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 284        | 98%     | 282          |
| Yes      | 5          | 2%      | 7            |

**Something else (please specify):**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 289        | 100%    | 288          |
| Yes      | 0.3        | <1%     | 1            |

**None of the above**

| Response | Weighted n | Percent | Unweighted n |
|----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| No       | 233        | 81%     | 223          |
| Yes      | 56         | 19%     | 66           |



**FIRE**

Foundation for Individual  
Rights and Expression

P.O. Box 40128  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
T: 215.717.3473  
[www.fire.org](http://www.fire.org)

DOWNLOAD THE 2027 COLLEGE  
FREE SPEECH RANKINGS REPORT

[rankings.fire.org](https://rankings.fire.org)



@thefireorg