

2027 College Free Speech Rankings

New England Small College Athletic Conference

	OVERALL RANK	SPEECH CLIMATE	SPOTLIGHT RATING
Amherst College	106	D-	YELLOW
Williams College	109	D-	YELLOW
Wesleyan University	120	D-	YELLOW
Hamilton College	125	D-	YELLOW
Colby College	147	F	YELLOW
Tufts University	162	F	RED
Bowdoin College	186	F	YELLOW
Connecticut College	209	F	RED
Trinity College	223	F	YELLOW
Bates College	230	F	RED
Middlebury College	245	F	RED



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 1,496 students at the 11 NESCAC schools. Key findings include:

- The NESCAC schools obtained an average overall score of 58.0. Amherst College is the top-ranked NESCAC school, ranking 106 nationally with an overall score of 62.0; Middlebury College ranks lowest in the conference at 245 nationally, with a score of 52.9.¹
- The top half of the conference improved considerably from last year. Williams College, Tufts University, and Hamilton College moved up the most, while Amherst College and Trinity College fell in the overall rankings.
- Several NESCAC schools performed well on attitudes towards “Disruptive Conduct,” which measures student opposition to shoutdowns, blocking access to events, and violence. Bates College ranks 4, Williams College ranks 10, and Bowdoin College ranks 17 on this component, signaling laudable opposition to disrupting controversial speech.
- Political tolerance remains uneven. Amherst College ranks 6 on “Political Tolerance,” but Connecticut College, Trinity College, Williams College, Tufts University, and Bates College all rank below 200.
- Student perceptions of school administrators’ commitment to free speech are strong at Wesleyan and Amherst, ranking 29 and 33, respectively. Hamilton and Williams also rank in the top 100. The remaining NESCAC schools performance was mediocre to poor, with Bates doing the worst with a third-from-the bottom rank of 259.
- NESCAC students were generally more open to discussing many controversial topics than students nationally, but the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained the hardest topic to discuss, and harder than the national average: 63% of students across the schools identified it as difficult, compared with 50% nationally.

¹ 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.

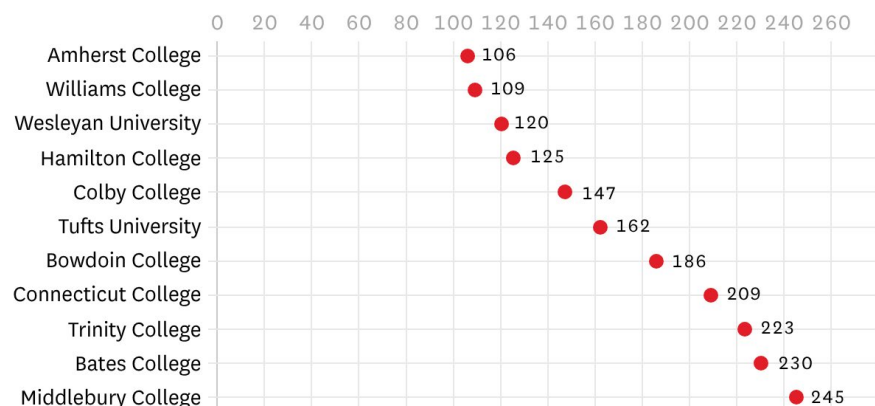
- NESCAC students were least comfortable expressing controversial political views on social media. Just 26% said they were at least “somewhat” comfortable doing so, compared with 38% of students nationally.
- Students at most NESCAC schools reported self-censoring less often than their peers nationally, particularly in conversations with professors and administrators and during class discussions.
- None of the NESCAC schools earns a “green light” Spotlight rating. Seven have “yellow light” ratings and four have “red light” ratings. Tufts University is the only NESCAC school with an institutional neutrality commitment, and none have adopted the Chicago Statement endorsing the free expression rights of students and faculty.
- Bowdoin College and Middlebury College each lost points for speech controversies. Bowdoin lost two points after opening a series of investigations against student Finley Rhys that began with his satirical reply to an invitation for a Charlie Kirk vigil, as well as for ordering the unregistered group Bowdoin Socialists to stop publishing content online. Middlebury also lost two points: one for students’ efforts to disrupt an Alumni Career Conversation with former CIA officer Phillip Consentino, and one for reportedly denying recognition to the Jewish student group Chabad in 2024.

OVERALL RANKINGS

Amherst College is the top-ranked NESCAC school in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings, ranking 106 out of 261 ranked schools. It is followed closely by Williams College at 109, Wesleyan University at 120, and Hamilton College at 125. Middlebury College ranks lowest in the conference at 245.

Four NESCAC schools received D- speech climate grades: Amherst College, Williams College, Wesleyan University, and Hamilton College—but D- was the *highest* grade among NESCAC schools. The remaining seven received F grades.

NESCAC Schools' Overall Rankings



Lower numerical ranks indicate stronger overall performance.

Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

NESCAC STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

NESCAC students largely reject disruptive tactics

Several NESCAC schools scored well on student opposition to disruptive conduct. Bates College ranks 4, Williams College ranks 10, Bowdoin College ranks 17, and Hamilton College ranks 28 on “Disruptive Conduct.” This component reflects how strongly students reject shoutdowns, blocking access to campus speeches, and violence in response to expression.

At Bates College, only 9% of students said using violence to stop a campus speech was at least “rarely” acceptable, compared with 31% nationally. At Williams College, 12% said the same. Those two schools had the lowest student acceptance of violence among the NESCAC schools.

NESCAC Students vs. Students Nationally Who Said a Type of Disruptive Conduct Was At Least Rarely Acceptable (%)

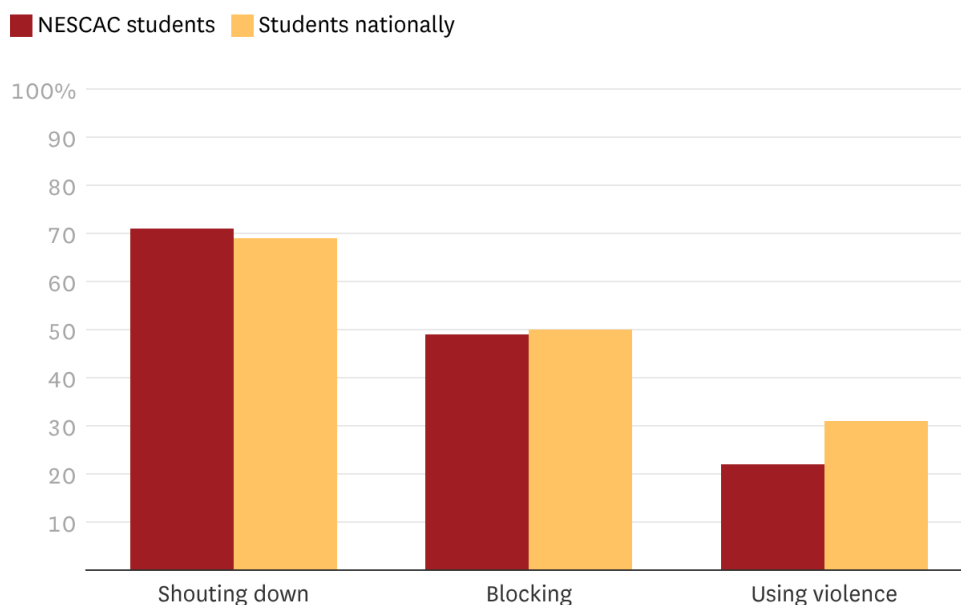


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

Political tolerance is high, but ideologically uneven

NESCAC scores on political tolerance are mixed because of stark differences among schools. Overall, Amherst College ranks 6 on “Political Tolerance,” while Wesleyan University ranks 52 and Middlebury College ranks 100. Contrastingly, Connecticut College and Trinity College rank near the bottom nationally. This suggests that some NESCAC campuses will be far more receptive to controversial speakers than others.

NESCAC students are more willing to allow controversial liberal speakers than controversial conservative speakers. Across the schools, an average of 61% of students would allow a speaker who had said “children should be able to transition without parental consent,” compared with 47% nationally. By contrast, an average of only 19% would allow a speaker who had said “transgender people have a mental disorder,” compared with 26% nationally.

NESCAC Students vs. Students Nationally Who Would Allow Each Speaker on Campus (%)

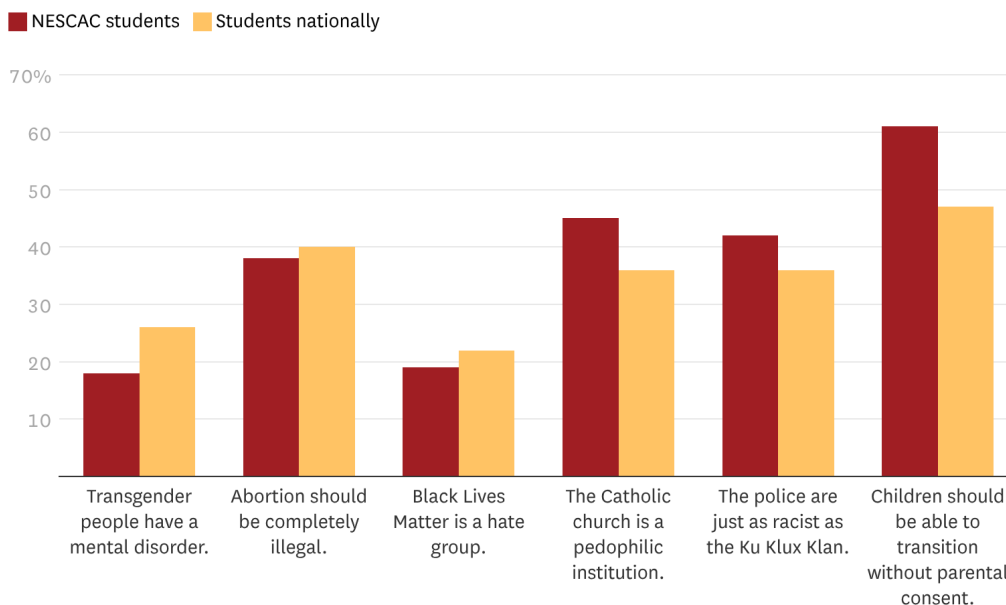


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

“Administrative Support” for free speech perceived as strongest at Wesleyan and Amherst

Almost half of the students surveyed at Wesleyan and Amherst reported that their administration makes it clear that they will protect free speech rights on campus and think that they will do so when a controversy occurs. These perceptions are reflected in each school’s national ranking on “Administrative Support” — Wesleyan ranks 29 and Amherst ranks 33. Hamilton and Williams also scored fairly well on this component, with ranks in the top 100. The remaining NESCAC schools’ scores ranged from mediocre to poor, with Bates bringing up the rear with a dismal rank of 259.

Student Perspectives in NESCAC Schools' 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

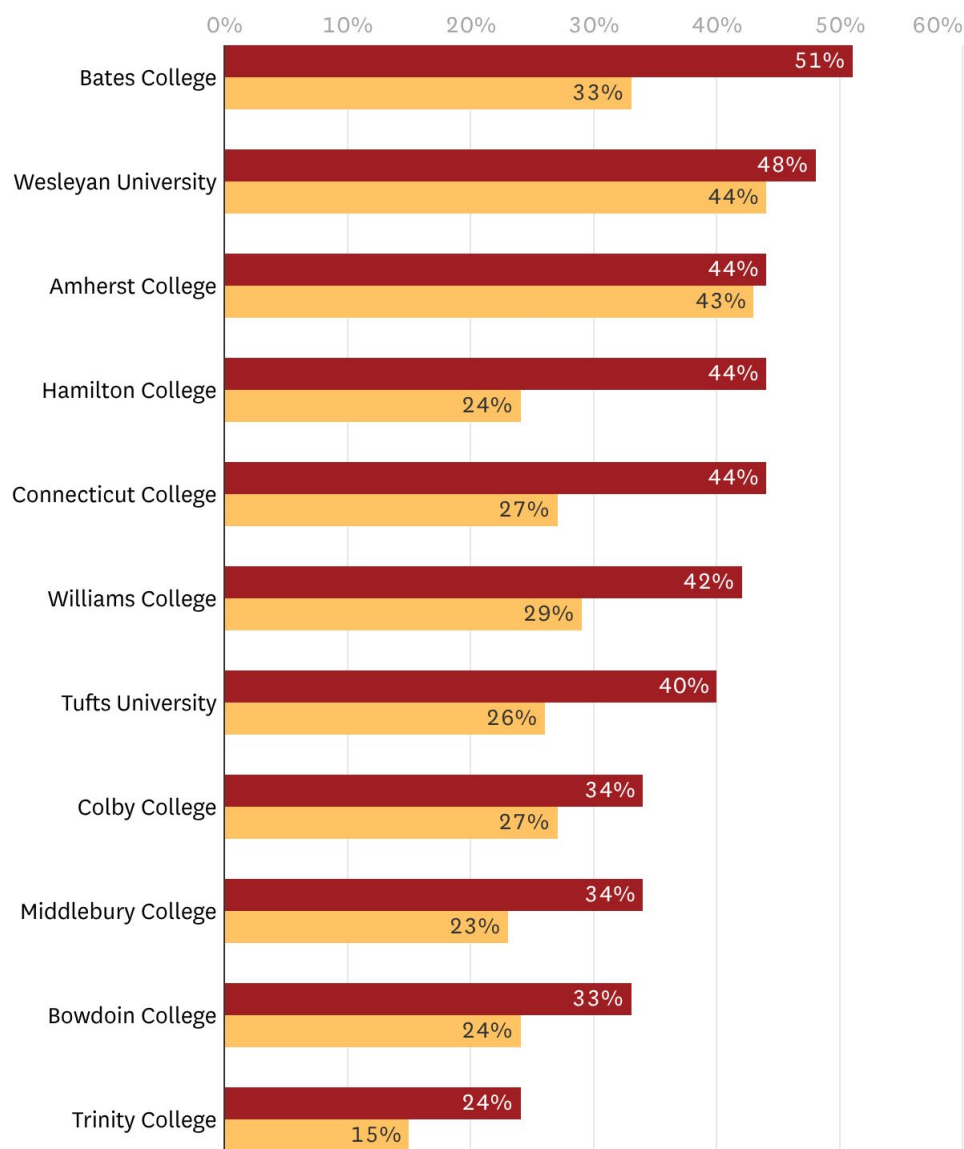


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

Students said many topics were easy to discuss

Most NESCAC schools performed comparatively well to other schools nationally on “Openness,” which measures how many controversial topics students said were not difficult to discuss. Connecticut College ranks 10, Tufts University ranks 12, Williams College ranks 20, Wesleyan University ranks 39, and Middlebury College ranks 45 in this important category.

The exception is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Across the 11 NESCAC schools, an average of 63% of students said it was difficult to have an open and honest conversation about this topic, compared with 50% nationally. The next most difficult topics were Charlie Kirk (35%), Donald Trump (33%), transgender rights (31%), and immigration (30%).

TABLE 3. “Openness” rankings and most difficult topics at NESCAC schools

SCHOOL	OPENNESS RANKING	MOST DIFFICULT TOPICS IN 2026
Connecticut College	10	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (63%), Charlie Kirk (36%), Donald Trump (27%)
Tufts University	12	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (70%), Abortion (24%), Charlie Kirk (23%)
Williams College	20	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (67%), Affirmative action (30%), Charlie Kirk (29%)
Wesleyan University	39	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (57%), Religion (33%), Economic inequality (30%)
Middlebury College	45	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (55%), Charlie Kirk (35%), Transgender rights (35%)
Amherst College	81	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (56%), Charlie Kirk (37%), Racial inequality (33%)
Bowdoin College	82	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (72%), Charlie Kirk (50%), Donald Trump (38%)
Colby College	138	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (61%), Donald Trump (41%), Economic inequality (38%)
Trinity College	146	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (56%), Donald Trump (47%), Charlie Kirk (42%)
Hamilton College	148	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (72%), Immigration (40%), Transgender rights (40%)
Bates College	178	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict (68%), Immigration (45%), Transgender rights (43%)

Students are least comfortable expressing views on social media

When asked about their “Comfort Expressing Ideas” in various campus forums and online, Hamilton College performed best, ranking 54. Tufts (57) and Connecticut College (79) also rank in the top 100. Wesleyan ranks just outside of the top 100 (102) and Amherst ranks 115. The remaining NESCAC schools ranks are either mediocre or poor on this component, with Bates ranking in the bottom 5 (259).

Student discomfort appears to be primarily driven by concerns about expressing their views on controversial topics on social media. Only about a quarter of NESCAC students (26%) said that they are “somewhat” or “very” comfortable doing this, compared to 38% of their peers nationally. In contrast, NESCAC students’ comfort levels expressing their views on controversial political topics in on-campus settings mirrored the comfort levels of their peers nationally.

NESCAC Students vs Students Nationally Who Felt Comfortable Expressing Views On Controversial Topics By Context (%)

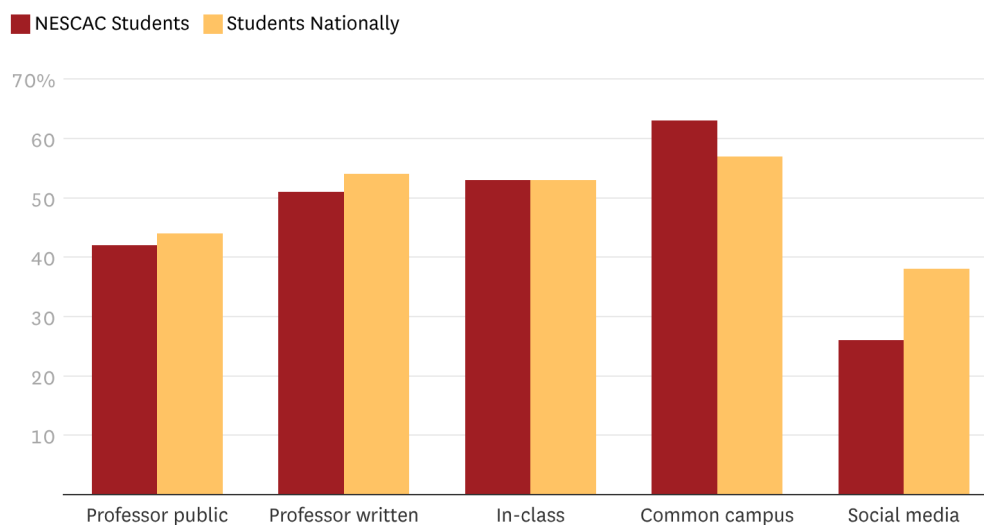


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

Students at most NESCAC schools self-censor less than non-NESCAC peers

Williams, Connecticut College, Tufts, Middlebury, and Bowdoin all rank in the top 50 on the “Self-censorship” component, meaning that students on those campuses are less likely to hide their views in conversations with students, faculty, or administrators, or during discussion in class due to fear of negative consequences, than their peers at most schools outside the conference. The remaining NESCAC schools do not do as well on this component — Wesleyan in particular ranks in the bottom 10 overall, at 253.

Overall, students at the NESCAC schools, like their peers nationally, self-censor less often in conversations with each other outside the classroom than within it. But NESCAC students do report a generally lower level of self-censorship in conversations with their professors or with administrators and during class discussions than students nationally.

NESCAC Students vs Students Nationally Who Engage In Self-Censorship Fairly or Very Often (%)

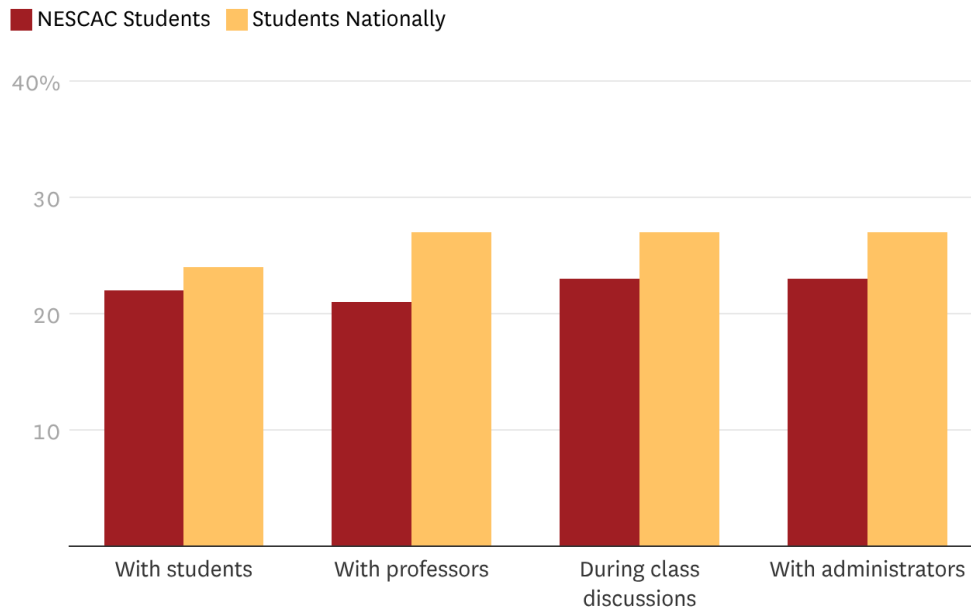


Chart: Emily Nayyer • Source: FIRE/College Pulse

RESTRICTIVE POLICIES CONTINUE TO DRAG DOWN SCORES

Each year, FIRE rates written policies on student expression at colleges and universities. These ratings follow a traffic light system: “green light,” “yellow light,” “red light,” and “Warning” for institutions that do not promise students free speech rights.

None of the NESCAC schools received a green light rating. Seven were given a yellow light rating — meaning they maintain at least one policy that restricts a more limited amount of protected expression or can too easily be used to restrict protected expression because of vague wording. Four were given a red light rating — meaning they maintain at least one policy that clearly and substantially restricts protected expression.

Tufts University is the only NESCAC school credited with an official commitment to institutional neutrality in the current rankings. None of the 11 schools is credited with adopting the Chicago Statement or a substantially similar statement that articulates specific overarching commitments to free discussion and debate for faculty and students.

TABLE 4. Spotlight ratings and speech policy concerns at NESCAC schools.

SCHOOL	SPOTLIGHT RATING	SPEECH POLICY CONCERNS
Amherst College	“Yellow”	Harassment policies that fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, restrictions on postings, civility mandates, and a bias-reporting system that solicits reports of protected expression.
Bates College	“Red”	Harassment, bullying, and bias policies imperil expressive right by reserving the right to address behavior even when it does not constitute unprotected conduct.
Bowdoin College	“Yellow”	Harassment policy fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, and its bias-reporting structure subjects protected speech to standards that should only be applied to misconduct.
Colby College	“Yellow”	Harassment policies fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, and its internet usage and civility policies risk punishing protected expression.
Connecticut College	“Red”	Policies are hidden behind a password-protected log-in page, preventing public access to policies that govern student expression.
Hamilton College	“Yellow”	Harassment policies that fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, and restrictive digital communication and civility policies
Middlebury College	“Red”	Harassment, internet usage, civility, and bias policies that imperil expressive rights and restrictions that ban impromptu protests.
Trinity College	“Yellow”	Harassment policies that fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, bias-reporting mechanisms, and a posting policy that requires prior approval and forbids anonymous authorship.
Tufts University	“Red”	Harassment, demonstration, internet usage, posting, and civility policies that imperil expressive rights. The current rankings credit Tufts with adopting institutional neutrality, which partly offsets its red light rating.
Wesleyan University	“Yellow”	Harassment policy that fails to meet the legal standard and policies encouraging reports of communications administrators may deem intimidating, hostile, or offensive.
Williams College	“Yellow”	Policies on harassment, student organization spending, outdoor events, posting, and bias-reporting that threaten protected expression.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL SUMMARIES

Amherst College

Amherst College ranks 106 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings, highest among NESCAC schools. It earned a score of 62.0 and a speech climate grade of D-.

Its strongest student survey component is “Political Tolerance,” where it ranks 6. Its weakest is student acceptance of “Disruptive Conduct,” where it ranks 148.

Amherst earns an overall “yellow light” **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains five yellow light policies and three “green light” policies. Two of the college’s harassment policies fail 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 college further restricts expression by regulating the content of postings, including vaguely requiring the materials “respect” the code of conduct, and also forbidding anonymous authorship.

Amherst also broadly mandates “respect for others” and bans “verbal abuse.” While civility is a laudable goal for students to aspire to, such civility mandates can all too easily be applied by administrators to punish disfavored but protected speech. Lastly, the college encourages students to report “identity-based bias or harm” even if that conduct would not constitute “discrimination, harassment, or a violation of the honor code.” 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, Amherst has adopted neither the Chicago Statement nor an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Williams College

Williams College ranks 109 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 61.8 and a speech climate grade of D-.

Its strongest student survey component is its relatively low level of “Self-Censorship,” where it ranks 9. Its weakest is “Political Tolerance,” where it ranks 212.

Students generally reported openness across many topics, but 67% said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was difficult to discuss.

Williams earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains seven yellow light policies and two green light policies. Williams’ harassment policy fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, risking suppressing protected speech. The college also bars registered student organizations from using their funds on activities “offensive” to the community, which could mean anything. This provision allows the student government to engage in viewpoint discrimination, an untenable outcome under Williams’ free speech promises.

Williams further restricts speech rights by requiring outdoor events to receive administrative approval, unnecessarily burdening the expressive rights of the community. Further, the institution's posting policy curtails the right to anonymous expression by requiring the author's name and email to be included on all materials. The college's internet usage policy prohibits all "chain letters" and "spam" without defining the terms or specifying that such email must disrupt others' use of the system to be punishable. This provision could potentially subject a wide range of protected expression, such as petitions to administrators, to punishment.

Finally, Williams encourages students to report "bias incidents" to the administration. Concerns related to bias are already addressed by existing harassment and discrimination protocols; therefore, the administration should focus its resources on these established systems and avoid soliciting reports of subjective bias.

In addition to these rated policies, Williams College has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Wesleyan University

Wesleyan University ranks 120 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 60.6 and a speech climate grade of D-.

Its strongest student survey component is "Administrative Support" for free expression, where it ranks 29. Its weakest is "Self-Censorship," where it ranks near the bottom at 253.

Students generally reported openness across many topics, but 57% said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was difficult to discuss.

Wesleyan University earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The university maintains two yellow light policies and four green light policies. One of Wesleyan's harassment policies fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, risking suppressing protected speech. The university also encourages students to report "posted messages" they find concerning to the administration, and states that such communications will be removed "if a reasonable person might perceive it to be intimidating, hostile, or offensive." This grants administrators broad discretion to censor a wide range of protected expression.

In addition to these rated policies, Wesleyan University has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Hamilton College

Hamilton College ranks 125 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 60.2 and a speech climate grade of D-.

Its strongest student survey component lies with students' rejection of "Disruptive Conduct" as a response to speech, where it ranks 28. Its weakest is "Political Tolerance," where it ranks 183.

Hamilton College earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains five yellow light policies and four green light policies. Three of

the college's four harassment policies fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, risking suppressing protected speech. Through its internet usage policy, Hamilton subjects a wide range of protected expression to punishment by placing restrictions on specific types of digital communications. Similarly, the college claims it fosters an environment where "independent opinions are supported and respected," yet threatens punishment when "opinions threaten others." While civility may indeed be a laudable goal to which students may aspire, policies mandating civility can all too easily be applied by administrators to punish disfavored but protected speech.

In addition to these rated policies, Hamilton College has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Colby College

Colby College ranks 147 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 59.2 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is in rejection of "Disruptive Conduct," where it ranks 46. Its weakest is "Comfort Expressing Ideas," where it ranks 214.

Students reported discomfort in high-pressure settings: 61% were at least "somewhat uncomfortable" publicly disagreeing with a professor, and 79% were at least "somewhat uncomfortable" expressing an unpopular political opinion on a social media account tied to their name.

Colby College earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains three yellow light policies and three green light policies. One of Colby's harassment policies fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, risking suppressing protected speech. The college further restricts expression by subjecting a wide range of protected digital communications to punishment through its internet usage policy. Lastly, Colby requires students to pledge commitment to a series of abstract values including advancing "diversity, equity, [and] inclusion" and "compassion, kindness, respect, and trust." While civility may indeed be a laudable goal for students to aspire to, policies mandating civility or fealty to political principles can all too easily be applied by administrators to punish disfavored but protected speech.

In addition to these rated policies, Colby has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Tufts University

Tufts University ranks 162 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 58.7 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is "Openness," where it ranks 12. Its weakest is "Political Tolerance," where it ranks 214.

Students generally reported being able to discuss many topics openly and honestly, but 70% said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was difficult to discuss.

Tufts University earns an overall “red light” **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The university maintains policies on internet usage and civility which imperil the expressive rights of students on campus. Tuft’s internet usage policy bans the “sending of offensive or abusive messages,” giving the administration the subjective authority to punish a wide range of protected expression.

Similarly, the university mandates “basic respect” within the community. While respect is a laudable goal to which students may aspire, policies mandating civility or respect can all too easily be applied by administrators to punish disfavored but protected speech.

In addition to these rated policies, Tufts has adopted a formal commitment to institutional neutrality but has not adopted a version of the Chicago Statement. Institutional neutrality is an important affirmation of the university’s commitment to free expression and open inquiry, and committing to the Chicago Statement would further reinforce those principles.

Bowdoin College

Bowdoin College ranks 186 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 57.7 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is opposition to “Disruptive Conduct” to silence controversial expression, where it ranks 17. Its weakest is student’s perception of “Administrative Support” for free expression, where it ranks 228.

Students were highly skeptical of administrative support: only 33% said it is “very” or “extremely” clear that the administration protects free speech, and 24% said it is “very” or “extremely” likely the administration would defend a speaker’s rights during a controversy.

Bowdoin was also penalized for two incidents in FIRE’s “Students Under Fire” database of campus incidents. In 2026, Bowdoin investigated student Finley Rhys after he replied, “RIP to bro,” including a crying-cat emoji, to a Bowdoin Conservatives invitation to a vigil commemorating Charlie Kirk. Following a nearly two-month long inquiry, the college charged Rhys with “conduct that is unbecoming of a Bowdoin student.” In a separate incident, the college ordered the Bowdoin Socialists, a student group to which Rhys belonged, to cease all publications on the grounds that it was an unregistered student organization. Bowdoin was penalized two points for these incidents.

Bowdoin College earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains one yellow light policy and three green light policies. Bowdoin’s harassment policy specifically bans “conduct that is unbecoming” and defines this conduct to include behavior that “infringes upon the rights, dignity, and integrity of any person,” as interpreted by the college. In doing so, this policy substantially diverts from legal precedent and fails to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment.

In addition to these rated policies, Bowdoin has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Connecticut College

Connecticut College ranks 209 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 56.0 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is relatively low reported “Self-Censorship,” where it ranks 10. Its weakest is “Political Tolerance,” where it ranks in the bottom 10, at 253.

Students generally reported openness across many topics, but 63% said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was difficult to discuss.

Connecticut College earns an overall red light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. Unusually, and uniquely among NESCAC schools, its policies are hidden behind a password-protected log-in page, preventing the public from even reading college policies. At FIRE, we consider this action by a university to be deceptive and serious enough that it alone warrants a red light rating.

In addition, Connecticut College has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Trinity College

Trinity College ranks 223 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 55.2 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is “Openness,” where it ranks 146. Its weakest is “Administrative Support,” where it ranks 252.

Students were skeptical of administrative support for free expression: only 24% said it is “very” or “extremely” clear that the administration protects free speech, and 15% said it is “very” or “extremely” likely the administration would defend a speaker’s rights during a controversy.

Trinity College earns an overall yellow light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. The college maintains five yellow light policies and three green light policies. Two of the college’s three harassment policies fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment harassment, risking suppressing protected speech. The college also encourages students to report “bias incidents,” “bullying,” and “campus climate concerns,” terms that encompass many categories of protected expression. This chills potentially unpopular, but nonetheless protected speech. The administration should instead focus its resources on reports of discrimination and harassment, and refrain from soliciting reports of subjective bias.

Finally, Trinity maintains a restrictive posting policy, which requires campus postings to receive prior administrative approval and forbids anonymous authorship. The policy also demands students use “good judgment and civility” when making postings, granting administrators broad discretion to suppress a wide range of protected expression.

In addition to these rated policies, Trinity College has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Bates College

Bates College ranks 230 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 54.2 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is opposition to “Disruptive Conduct,” where it ranks 4 nationally. Its weakest is “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” where it ranks 259, nearly dead last.

Students reported discomfort in high-pressure settings: 72% were at least “somewhat uncomfortable” publicly disagreeing with a professor, and 77% were at least “somewhat uncomfortable” expressing an unpopular political opinion on a social media account tied to their name.

Bates College earns an overall red light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. Bates maintains harassment, bullying, and bias policies which imperil the expressive rights of students on campus. Two of the college’s harassment policies fail 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 college goes so far as to include “confrontation, verbal slurs, insults or taunts,” in its definition of harassment as well as conduct that is “subjectively and objectively offensive, and is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent,” substantially diverging from the Supreme Court’s speech-protective precedent.

Of further concern, the college encourages students to report “Bias incidents” and defines such conduct to encompass largely unpopular but protected categories of speech. Similarly, Bates broadly defines and bans bullying, opening up an array of speech protected by First Amendment principles to punishment. Any expression the college wishes to prohibit under the “bias incidents” and “bullying” definitions should instead be governed under revised hostile environmental harassment policies. Lastly, Bates prohibits “threatening messages” based on the sender’s intent, rather than limiting the policy to objectively threatening conduct that falls outside First Amendment protection.

In addition to these rated policies, Bates has not adopted the Chicago Statement or an official policy of institutional neutrality.

Middlebury College

Middlebury College ranks 245 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings. It earned a score of 52.9 and a speech climate grade of F.

Its strongest student survey component is “Self-Censorship,” where it ranks 42. Its weakest is “Administrative Support,” where it ranks 202.

Students generally reported openness across many topics, but 55% said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was difficult to discuss.

Middlebury was penalized for two speech controversies. In February 2026, students reportedly used sustained noisemaking (e.g., loud typing, rustling papers, etc.) to disrupt an Alumni Career Conversation featuring Phillip Consentino, a retired CIA agent and visiting scholar at the college. According to one of the disruptors, the intention was “to disrupt the event, prevent the speaker from convincing people to join the CIA, and tell Middlebury that we don’t want an organization that has committed international crimes.” For this, Middlebury was penalized one point.

The college also continues to be penalized (only one point, as penalties reduce over time) for reportedly denying recognition to the Jewish student group Chabad in 2024 in part because there was already one organization on campus that supposedly offered similar programming. This, despite there being multiple groups representing other individual faiths on campus.

Middlebury College also earns an overall red light **Spotlight rating** for its written policies governing student expression. Middlebury maintains harassment, demonstration, internet usage, security fee, civility and bias policies which imperil the expressive rights of students on campus. None of the college's harassment policies 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 college also mandates civility by broadly banning verbal conduct that "inhibits genuine discourse" and is deemed "violence in word," an incomprehensible standard. While civility may indeed be a laudable goal to which students may aspire, policies mandating civility can all too easily be applied by administrators to punish disfavored but protected speech.

Middlebury also encourages students to report "bias incidents and acts of intolerance" to the administration and states its definition of these terms, which includes potentially unpopular but protected categories of speech and is "intentionally broad" so as to reinforce the community's values. The administration should focus its resources on reports of discrimination and harassment, and refrain from soliciting reports of subjective bias.

The college also burdens speech rights by requiring demonstrations be submitted through an "Event Scheduling Request," effectively banning impromptu protests. Middlebury also imposes security fees specifically for controversial speakers and reserves the right to determine these fees without explaining viewpoint neutral criteria for assessing them. This allows the administration to impose fees as a punishment for disfavored but protected speech. Lastly, Middlebury subjects a wide range of protected digital communication to punishment through its internet usage policy.

In addition to these rated policies, Middlebury College has adopted neither the Chicago Statement nor an official policy of institutional neutrality.

HOW CAN THE NESCAC SCHOOLS IMPROVE?

The clearest scoring lever for improvement at the NESCAC schools is policy reform. Four schools — Bates, Connecticut College, Middlebury, and Tufts — have “red light” Spotlight ratings, while the remaining schools are all “yellow light.” The potential effect of this reform is influential and can be seen in the table below.

SCHOOL	CURRENT RANKING	RANKING IF “YELLOW LIGHT”	RANKING IF “GREEN LIGHT”
Amherst College	106	NA	27
Bates College	230	149	36
Bowdoin College	186	NA	94
Colby College	148	NA	72
Connecticut College	209	116	32
Hamilton College	125	NA	35
Middlebury College	245	180	42
Trinity College	223	NA	59
Tufts University	162	76	14
Wesleyan University	120	NA	34
Williams College	109	NA	27

All of the NESCAC schools should also adopt the Chicago Statement or a substantially similar statement committing to freedom of expression, and an official commitment to institutional neutrality. These commitments would directly improve their scores and help administrators respond consistently when controversial speech or protests arise.

Most of the NESCAC schools have harassment policies that fail to meet the legal standard for peer hostile environment. (Connecticut College’s policies are unknown because its policies are hidden behind a password-protected log-in page, preventing public access to policies that govern student expression.) Many NESCAC schools also have restrictive internet usage and posting policies that can restrict student expression.

Trinity, Bowdoin, and Middlebury should make administrative support a priority. All three schools rank below 200 on “Administrative Support,” with Trinity just outside the bottom 10 with a rank of 250. At Trinity, 59% of students said it was “not at all” or “not very” clear that the administration protects free speech. At Bowdoin and Middlebury these percentages are 44% and 28% respectively. Administrators should explain in orientation, event planning, and responses to controversies how the school will protect speech across viewpoints.

A number of NESCAC schools also have a problem with “Political Tolerance.” Connecticut College ranks 253 on this component and Trinity sits at 250. Tufts, Williams, and Bates also all rank below 200. Survey data indicates this is to hostility towards allowing controversial conservative views on campus, something with which most of the NESCAC schools struggled. Schools need to help students practice disagreement as part of their education. 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. This could help address weak political tolerance and high discomfort with expression on social media.

Finally, the NESCAC schools should make their commitments visible and consistent. Administrators should explain why free expression, institutional neutrality, and open inquiry are central to their academic missions. These steps could help each school translate stronger formal protections and better event practices into a more durable campus speech climate.

NESCAC's 2027 College Free Speech Rankings scores by component

COMPONENT	MAXIMUM VALUE	AMHERST	WILLIAMS	WESLEYAN	HAMILTON	COLBY	TUFTS	MINIMUM VALUE
Comfort Expressing Ideas	15	9.86	9.54	9.91	10.08	9.51	10.07	5
Self-Censorship	20	12.95	13.73	12.08	12.74	12.74	13.46	4
Disruptive Conduct	20	15.57	16.97	15.54	16.49	16.28	15.75	3
Administrative Support	20	12.55	11.94	12.59	11.94	11.43	11.68	2
Openness	10	7.55	8.00	7.81	7.17	7.24	8.10	0
Political Tolerance	15	8.52	6.62	7.64	6.78	7.05	6.62	3
Chicago Statement	3 (Yes)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)
Institutional Neutrality	3 (Yes)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	3 (Yes)	0 (No)
Spotlight Rating	5 (Green)	-5 (Yellow)	-5 (Yellow)	-5 (Yellow)	-5 (Yellow)	-5 (Yellow)	-10 (Red)	-10 (Red)
Campus Deplatformings	∞ Bonuses	0	0	0	0	0	0	∞ Penalties
Scholars Under Fire	∞ Bonuses	0	0	0	0	0	0	∞ Penalties
Students Under Fire	∞ Bonuses	0	0	0	0	0	0	∞ Penalties
Overall score	111 + bonuses	62.01	61.79	60.57	60.22	59.25	58.68	7 + penalties

COMPONENT	MAXIMUM VALUE	BOWDOIN	CONNECTICUT	TRINITY	BATES	MIDDLEBURY	MINIMUM VALUE
Comfort Expressing Ideas	15	9.58	9.97	9.27	9.04	9.75	5
Self-Censorship	20	13.23	13.73	12.58	12.99	13.24	4
Disruptive Conduct	20	16.73	16.04	15.33	17.17	15.80	3
Administrative Support	20	10.67	12.16	9.86	11.44	11.10	2
Openness	10	7.55	8.17	7.18	6.95	7.77	0
Political Tolerance	15	6.95	5.91	5.93	6.62	7.28	3
Chicago Statement	3 (Yes)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)
Institutional Neutrality	3 (Yes)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)	0 (No)
Spotlight Rating	5 (Green)	-5 (Yellow)	-10 (Red)	-5 (Yellow)	-10 (Red)	-10 (Red)	-10 (Red)
Campus Deplatformings	∞ Bonuses	0	0	0	0	0	∞ Penalties
Scholars Under Fire	∞ Bonuses	0	0	0	0	-1	∞ Penalties
Students Under Fire	∞ Bonuses	-2	0	0	0	-1	∞ Penalties
Overall score	111 + bonuses	57.72	55.97	55.16	54.22	52.93	7 + penalties

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Amherst College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 84.

Margin of error = +/- 10.7%.

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	0.3	<1%	1
Not very clear	8	9%	6
Somewhat clear	39	46%	33
Very clear	26	31%	33
Extremely clear	11	13%	11

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	0.3	<1%	1
Not very likely	22	26%	17
Somewhat likely	26	31%	22
Very likely	31	37%	36
Extremely likely	5	6%	8

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	18	21%	19
Somewhat uncomfortable	24	28%	28
Somewhat comfortable	30	36%	24
Very comfortable	12	15%	13

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	15	18%	17
Somewhat uncomfortable	28	34%	26
Somewhat comfortable	27	32%	26
Very comfortable	13	16%	15

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	14	16%	11
Somewhat uncomfortable	27	32%	27
Somewhat comfortable	22	26%	28
Very comfortable	21	25%	18

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	10	12%	8
Somewhat uncomfortable	20	24%	26
Somewhat comfortable	30	36%	28
Very comfortable	24	28%	22

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	31	37%	34
Somewhat uncomfortable	28	34%	29
Somewhat comfortable	19	22%	17
Very comfortable	6	7%	4

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	7	9%	9
Rarely	25	30%	27
Occasionally, once or twice a month	33	40%	31
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	14	17%	16
Very often, nearly every day	4	5%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	10	11%	10
Rarely	24	28%	25
Occasionally, once or twice a month	30	35%	33
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	16	19%	11
Very often, nearly every day	5	6%	5

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	7	8%	9
Rarely	23	27%	32
Occasionally, once or twice a month	34	41%	29
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	15	18%	11
Very often, nearly every day	5	5%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	18	22%	14
Rarely	17	21%	28
Occasionally, once or twice a month	35	42%	31
Fairly often, a couple times a week	6	7%	6
Very often, nearly every day	8	9%	5

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	3	3%	4
Sometimes acceptable	29	34%	26
Rarely acceptable	33	39%	33
Never acceptable	19	23%	21

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	6	7%	3
Sometimes acceptable	12	15%	12
Rarely acceptable	29	35%	31
Never acceptable	36	43%	38

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0.3	<1%	1
Sometimes acceptable	4	5%	4
Rarely acceptable	16	19%	15
Never acceptable	63	75%	64

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	32	38%	34
Probably should not allow this speaker	25	30%	30
Probably should allow this speaker	6	7%	5
Definitely should allow this speaker	20	24%	15

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	16	19%	16
Probably should not allow this speaker	27	32%	29
Probably should allow this speaker	22	26%	21
Definitely should allow this speaker	19	23%	18

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	28	34%	33
Probably should not allow this speaker	22	26%	24
Probably should allow this speaker	13	15%	12
Definitely should allow this speaker	21	25%	15

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	10	11%	8
Probably should not allow this speaker	26	31%	30
Probably should allow this speaker	28	33%	29
Definitely should allow this speaker	21	25%	17

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	12	15%	8
Probably should not allow this speaker	24	28%	27
Probably should allow this speaker	24	28%	25
Definitely should allow this speaker	24	29%	24

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	6	7%	4
Probably should not allow this speaker	28	33%	25
Probably should allow this speaker	30	35%	34
Definitely should allow this speaker	20	24%	21

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	62	74%	65
Yes	22	26%	19

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	58	69%	60
Yes	26	31%	24

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	53	63%	54
Yes	31	37%	30

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	69	82%	75
Yes	15	18%	9

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	76	90%	78
Yes	8	10%	6

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	76	90%	80
Yes	8	10%	4

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	60	71%	64
Yes	24	29%	20

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	61	72%	64
Yes	23	28%	20

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	64	77%	72
Yes	20	23%	12

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	80%	70
Yes	16	20%	14

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	81%	70
Yes	16	19%	14

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	66	79%	67
Yes	18	21%	17

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	63	75%	68
Yes	21	25%	16

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	58	69%	60
Yes	26	31%	24

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	37	44%	36
Yes	47	56%	48

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	72	86%	73
Yes	12	14%	11

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	64	77%	68
Yes	20	23%	16

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	57	67%	63
Yes	27	33%	21

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	65	78%	67
Yes	19	22%	17

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	80%	67
Yes	17	20%	17

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	69	83%	74
Yes	15	17%	10

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	62	74%	62
Yes	22	26%	22

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	74	88%	73
Yes	10	12%	11

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	18	22%	15
Rarely	27	32%	36
Occasionally, once or twice a month	27	32%	21
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	10	12%	10
Very often, nearly every day	0.9	1%	2

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.	2	2%	3
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	12	14%	9
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	70	84%	72

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	16	19%	16
Rarely	9	11%	11
Sometimes	20	24%	20
Fairly often	15	18%	22
Always	24	28%	15

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	47	55%	41
Rarely	15	18%	24
Sometimes	16	19%	14
Fairly often	5	5%	3
Always	2	3%	2

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	28	33%	27
Rarely	14	16%	18
Sometimes	17	20%	17
Fairly often	18	22%	17
Always	8	9%	5

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	61	72%	64
Rarely	13	16%	12
Sometimes	4	5%	5
Fairly often	2	2%	1
Always	4	5%	2

"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	21	25%	23
Rarely	25	30%	23
Sometimes	14	16%	19
Fairly often	14	17%	15
Always	9	11%	4

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	27	32%	36
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	30	36%	32
The professor probably should be fired from their job	21	25%	12
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	6	8%	4

"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	23	27%	26
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	33	39%	34
The professor probably should be fired from their job	16	19%	15
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	12	15%	9

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	22	27%	24
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	40	48%	39
The professor probably should be fired from their job	13	16%	16
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	8	10%	5

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	19	23%	22
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	32	38%	31
The professor probably should be fired from their job	24	28%	23
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	9	11%	8

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	33	39%	34
Less than once a year	6	7%	9
Once or twice a year	14	16%	11
Several times a year	9	11%	9
Once a month	4	5%	4
2-3 times a month	12	15%	9
About weekly	6	7%	5
Weekly	0	0%	0
Several times a week	0.5	1%	2

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	100%	82
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	83
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	1	12%	2
Less than half the time	8	64%	5
About half the time	3	22%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.3	2%	1
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	20%	6
Less than half the time	6	32%	5
About half the time	8	42%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	1	6%	1
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	15%	5
Less than half the time	4	17%	5
About half the time	11	49%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	19%	6
Always	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	34%	3
Less than half the time	3	22%	3
About half the time	6	42%	2
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.3	2%	1
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0	0%	0
Less than half the time	4	22%	3
About half the time	5	31%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	7	38%	8
Always	2	9%	2

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	18	21%	19
Yes	66	79%	65

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	54	64%	63
Yes	30	36%	21

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	76	91%	76
Yes	8	9%	8

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	75	89%	80
Yes	9	11%	4

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	81%	66
Yes	16	19%	18

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	79	94%	80
Yes	5	6%	4

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	16	18%	25
Yes	68	82%	59

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	74	88%	73
Yes	10	12%	11

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	52	62%	48
Yes	32	38%	36

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	84	100%	83
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	99%	82
Yes	0.5	1%	2

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	81	96%	81
Yes	3	4%	3

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	83
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	99%	81
Yes	1	1%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	82	97%	81
Yes	2	3%	3

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	99%	83
Yes	0.5	1%	1

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	99%	83
Yes	0.5	1%	1

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	99%	83
Yes	0.5	1%	1

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	82	98%	83
Yes	2	2%	1

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	100%	84
Yes	0	0%	0

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	81%	73
Yes	16	19%	11

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Williams College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 118.

Margin of error = +/- 9.0%.

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	1.0	1%	2
Not very clear	15	13%	14
Somewhat clear	51	44%	48
Very clear	42	35%	46
Extremely clear	9	7%	8

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	4	3%	5
Not very likely	22	19%	23
Somewhat likely	58	49%	54
Very likely	31	26%	33
Extremely likely	3	3%	3

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	29	25%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	39	33%	43
Somewhat comfortable	38	32%	34
Very comfortable	12	10%	11

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	6	5%	10
Somewhat uncomfortable	51	43%	42
Somewhat comfortable	46	39%	49
Very comfortable	15	13%	17

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	18	15%	20
Somewhat uncomfortable	46	40%	40
Somewhat comfortable	38	32%	45
Very comfortable	15	13%	13

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	10	9%	10
Somewhat uncomfortable	39	33%	35
Somewhat comfortable	52	44%	49
Very comfortable	17	14%	24

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	44	37%	47
Somewhat uncomfortable	48	41%	47
Somewhat comfortable	21	18%	18
Very comfortable	5	4%	6

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	7	6%	8
Rarely	47	40%	48
Occasionally, once or twice a month	43	37%	39
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	18	16%	19
Very often, nearly every day	2	2%	4

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	16	14%	11
Rarely	45	39%	48
Occasionally, once or twice a month	43	37%	43
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	12	10%	13
Very often, nearly every day	1	1%	3

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	9%	9
Rarely	40	34%	41
Occasionally, once or twice a month	50	42%	47
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	16	14%	19
Very often, nearly every day	0.5	<1%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	16	14%	16
Rarely	52	44%	52
Occasionally, once or twice a month	22	19%	28
Fairly often, a couple times a week	26	22%	20
Very often, nearly every day	1	1%	2

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	0	0%	0
Sometimes acceptable	27	23%	30
Rarely acceptable	51	44%	49
Never acceptable	39	33%	39

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0	0%	0
Sometimes acceptable	12	10%	12
Rarely acceptable	43	36%	44
Never acceptable	63	54%	62

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0	0%	0
Sometimes acceptable	3	2%	3
Rarely acceptable	11	9%	18
Never acceptable	104	88%	97

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	63	53%	66
Probably should not allow this speaker	36	31%	31
Probably should allow this speaker	14	12%	15
Definitely should allow this speaker	5	4%	6

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	41	35%	41
Probably should not allow this speaker	33	28%	35
Probably should allow this speaker	37	31%	32
Definitely should allow this speaker	7	6%	10

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	57	48%	64
Probably should not allow this speaker	38	32%	30
Probably should allow this speaker	16	14%	16
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	5%	8

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	22	19%	26
Probably should not allow this speaker	39	33%	40
Probably should allow this speaker	47	40%	40
Definitely should allow this speaker	9	8%	12

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	14	12%	20
Probably should not allow this speaker	48	41%	48
Probably should allow this speaker	49	42%	40
Definitely should allow this speaker	7	6%	10

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	3	2%	6
Probably should not allow this speaker	37	31%	29
Probably should allow this speaker	68	58%	67
Definitely should allow this speaker	10	9%	16

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	87	74%	94
Yes	31	26%	24

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	70%	84
Yes	35	30%	34

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	71%	86
Yes	34	29%	32

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	95%	107
Yes	6	5%	11

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	95%	110
Yes	5	5%	8

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	109	93%	107
Yes	9	7%	11

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	91	77%	93
Yes	27	23%	25

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	89	76%	91
Yes	28	24%	27

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	88%	106
Yes	14	12%	12

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	103	87%	103
Yes	15	13%	15

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	105	90%	106
Yes	12	10%	12

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	82%	100
Yes	21	18%	18

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	86%	102
Yes	16	14%	16

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	90	77%	89
Yes	27	23%	29

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	39	33%	43
Yes	79	67%	75

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	99	84%	104
Yes	19	16%	14

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	96	82%	98
Yes	21	18%	20

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	78%	94
Yes	26	22%	24

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	91	77%	96
Yes	27	23%	22

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	93	79%	93
Yes	25	21%	25

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	94%	107
Yes	7	6%	11

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	72%	90
Yes	34	28%	28

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	83%	100
Yes	21	17%	18

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	19	16%	28
Rarely	61	52%	54
Occasionally, once or twice a month	34	29%	30
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	3	3%	4
Very often, nearly every day	1	1%	2

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.	0	0%	0
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	10	9%	10
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	107	91%	108

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	12	11%	19
Rarely	24	22%	28
Sometimes	19	17%	18
Fairly often	36	32%	28
Always	21	19%	21

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	53	48%	52
Rarely	30	27%	32
Sometimes	20	18%	20
Fairly often	5	5%	6
Always	3	3%	4

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	23	21%	27
Rarely	29	26%	25
Sometimes	26	23%	27
Fairly often	27	24%	25
Always	6	6%	10

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	72	65%	83
Rarely	35	31%	24
Sometimes	5	4%	7
Fairly often	0	0%	0
Always	0	0%	0

"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	18	16%	26
Rarely	27	25%	22
Sometimes	33	30%	25
Fairly often	19	17%	23
Always	14	13%	18

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	38	34%	38
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	58	52%	55
The professor probably should be fired from their job	13	12%	16
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	2	2%	5

"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	17	15%	22
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	62	56%	53
The professor probably should be fired from their job	24	21%	30
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	9	8%	9

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	18	16%	23
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	67	60%	59
The professor probably should be fired from their job	20	18%	24
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	6	6%	8

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	17	16%	24
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	63	56%	57
The professor probably should be fired from their job	18	17%	21
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	13	11%	12

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	39	35%	41
Less than once a year	7	6%	7
Once or twice a year	24	21%	21
Several times a year	10	9%	17
Once a month	15	13%	10
2-3 times a month	4	4%	4
About weekly	5	4%	6
Weekly	7	6%	6
Several times a week	0.7	1%	2

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	100%	113
Yes	0.4	<1%	1

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	100%	113
Yes	0.4	<1%	1

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	1	5%	1
Less than half the time	16	59%	10
About half the time	5	18%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	16%	4
Always	0.7	2%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	15%	3
Less than half the time	13	79%	12
About half the time	0.9	5%	1
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	14%	5
Less than half the time	8	34%	8
About half the time	6	28%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	5	24%	9
Always	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	8	32%	6
Less than half the time	15	61%	15
About half the time	2	7%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0	0%	0
Less than half the time	11	43%	10
About half the time	2	9%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	11	42%	7
Always	1	5%	2

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	28	24%	27
Yes	89	76%	91

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	73	62%	79
Yes	45	38%	39

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	94%	109
Yes	7	6%	9

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	87%	107
Yes	15	13%	11

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	96	81%	96
Yes	22	19%	22

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	106	90%	104
Yes	12	10%	14

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	39	33%	38
Yes	79	67%	80

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	72	61%	72
Yes	46	39%	46

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	82	70%	78
Yes	35	30%	40

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	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	99%	116
Yes	0.6	1%	2

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	99%	116
Yes	0.6	1%	2

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	99%	116
Yes	0.9	1%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	99%	116
Yes	0.6	1%	2

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	100%	117
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	100%	118
Yes	0	0%	0

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	105	89%	101
Yes	13	11%	17

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

Wesleyan University

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 115.

Margin of error = +/- 9.1%.

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	3	3%	3
Not very clear	9	8%	10
Somewhat clear	48	42%	51
Very clear	36	32%	38
Extremely clear	18	16%	13

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	4	3%	4
Not very likely	27	23%	21
Somewhat likely	34	30%	44
Very likely	42	36%	38
Extremely likely	9	8%	8

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	27	23%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	32	28%	30
Somewhat comfortable	37	32%	38
Very comfortable	19	17%	17

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	17	15%	14
Somewhat uncomfortable	36	31%	36
Somewhat comfortable	39	34%	37
Very comfortable	24	21%	28

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	20	17%	21
Somewhat uncomfortable	27	24%	31
Somewhat comfortable	45	39%	43
Very comfortable	23	20%	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	16	14%	16
Somewhat uncomfortable	21	18%	25
Somewhat comfortable	51	44%	46
Very comfortable	28	24%	28

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	46	40%	44
Somewhat uncomfortable	36	32%	38
Somewhat comfortable	27	23%	24
Very comfortable	6	5%	9

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	13	12%	11
Rarely	31	27%	32
Occasionally, once or twice a month	36	31%	42
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	21	18%	21
Very often, nearly every day	14	12%	9

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	9	8%	12
Rarely	27	23%	33
Occasionally, once or twice a month	44	38%	35
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	23	20%	27
Very often, nearly every day	13	11%	8

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	7	6%	9
Rarely	40	35%	39
Occasionally, once or twice a month	28	24%	31
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	21	19%	24
Very often, nearly every day	18	16%	12

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	10%	14
Rarely	42	36%	41
Occasionally, once or twice a month	22	19%	27
Fairly often, a couple times a week	26	22%	23
Very often, nearly every day	15	13%	10

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	12	10%	9
Sometimes acceptable	30	26%	29
Rarely acceptable	39	34%	42
Never acceptable	34	30%	35

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	4	4%	3
Sometimes acceptable	23	20%	21
Rarely acceptable	24	21%	32
Never acceptable	63	55%	59

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	4	4%	3
Sometimes acceptable	10	9%	12
Rarely acceptable	21	19%	21
Never acceptable	80	69%	79

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	57	49%	53
Probably should not allow this speaker	25	22%	28
Probably should allow this speaker	13	11%	20
Definitely should allow this speaker	20	18%	14

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	36	31%	32
Probably should not allow this speaker	34	30%	34
Probably should allow this speaker	18	16%	28
Definitely should allow this speaker	27	23%	21

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	58	50%	53
Probably should not allow this speaker	20	17%	27
Probably should allow this speaker	16	14%	21
Definitely should allow this speaker	22	19%	14

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	17	15%	14
Probably should not allow this speaker	40	35%	40
Probably should allow this speaker	34	30%	38
Definitely should allow this speaker	24	21%	23

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	16	14%	17
Probably should not allow this speaker	26	23%	31
Probably should allow this speaker	40	35%	44
Definitely should allow this speaker	33	29%	23

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	14	12%	12
Probably should not allow this speaker	26	22%	33
Probably should allow this speaker	40	35%	41
Definitely should allow this speaker	36	31%	29

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	85	73%	85
Yes	30	27%	30

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	93	81%	91
Yes	22	19%	24

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	73%	80
Yes	31	27%	35

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	91%	105
Yes	11	9%	10

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	108	94%	106
Yes	7	6%	9

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	101	88%	98
Yes	14	12%	17

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	72%	79
Yes	32	28%	36

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	81	70%	85
Yes	34	30%	30

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	84%	95
Yes	18	16%	20

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	82%	93
Yes	21	18%	22

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	80%	86
Yes	23	20%	29

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	80%	87
Yes	23	20%	28

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	87	75%	88
Yes	28	25%	27

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	93	81%	92
Yes	22	19%	23

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	49	43%	49
Yes	66	57%	66

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	88	77%	80
Yes	27	23%	35

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	82%	90
Yes	21	18%	25

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	80%	90
Yes	23	20%	25

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	67%	80
Yes	38	33%	35

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	80%	92
Yes	23	20%	23

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	91%	106
Yes	11	9%	9

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	87	76%	85
Yes	28	24%	30

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	91%	98
Yes	11	9%	17

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	20	18%	22
Rarely	45	39%	46
Occasionally, once or twice a month	25	21%	26
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	11	10%	14
Very often, nearly every day	14	12%	7

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.	2	2%	2
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	15	13%	13
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	97	85%	99

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	12	11%	17
Rarely	27	24%	24
Sometimes	38	34%	34
Fairly often	14	12%	19
Always	22	20%	19

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	59	52%	59
Rarely	33	29%	34
Sometimes	15	13%	12
Fairly often	3	3%	4
Always	4	3%	4

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	25	22%	27
Rarely	18	16%	19
Sometimes	30	26%	26
Fairly often	15	14%	19
Always	26	23%	22

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	68	59%	74
Rarely	28	25%	23
Sometimes	12	11%	11
Fairly often	0.6	<1%	2
Always	6	5%	3

"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	18	16%	26
Rarely	28	24%	24
Sometimes	23	20%	26
Fairly often	21	18%	20
Always	24	21%	17

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	47	42%	46
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	37	33%	40
The professor probably should be fired from their job	24	21%	20
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	5	4%	5

"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	35%	35
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	51	45%	51
The professor probably should be fired from their job	17	15%	20
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	5	5%	5

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	22	20%	26
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	40	36%	45
The professor probably should be fired from their job	35	31%	27
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	15	14%	13

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	22	19%	25
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	37	33%	45
The professor probably should be fired from their job	45	40%	34
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	9	8%	7

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	35	31%	43
Less than once a year	13	12%	12
Once or twice a year	21	18%	18
Several times a year	13	12%	18
Once a month	6	5%	4
2-3 times a month	4	4%	3
About weekly	14	13%	8
Weekly	5	5%	4
Several times a week	1	1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	107	95%	108
Yes	6	5%	3

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	100%	111
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	16%	1
Less than half the time	10	41%	11
About half the time	3	15%	4
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	17%	3
Always	3	11%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	6	28%	7
Less than half the time	10	44%	12
About half the time	1	6%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	1.0	4%	1
Always	4	18%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	24%	3
Less than half the time	4	27%	8
About half the time	3	17%	4
Most of the time, nearly every day	3	18%	4
Always	2	14%	2

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	10	35%	11
Less than half the time	11	39%	8
About half the time	3	12%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	4	13%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0.6	2%	2
Less than half the time	3	12%	6
About half the time	10	38%	9
Most of the time, nearly every day	10	40%	5
Always	2	7%	2

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	20	18%	18
Yes	95	82%	97

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	61%	72
Yes	45	39%	43

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	88%	103
Yes	13	12%	12

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	101	88%	98
Yes	14	12%	17

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	78	68%	77
Yes	37	32%	38

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	107	93%	108
Yes	8	7%	7

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	49	42%	51
Yes	66	58%	64

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	85	74%	86
Yes	30	26%	29

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	103	89%	100
Yes	12	11%	15

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	111	96%	109
Yes	4	4%	6

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	108	94%	105
Yes	7	6%	10

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	110	95%	109
Yes	5	5%	6

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	109	95%	108
Yes	6	5%	7

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	97%	109
Yes	4	3%	6

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	99%	111
Yes	2	1%	4

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	98%	110
Yes	3	2%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	98%	110
Yes	2	2%	5

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	98%	110
Yes	2	2%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	98%	110
Yes	2	2%	5

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	98%	110
Yes	2	2%	5

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	98%	110
Yes	2	2%	5

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	97%	109
Yes	4	3%	6

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	97%	111
Yes	3	3%	4

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	97%	110
Yes	3	3%	5

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	98%	114
Yes	3	2%	1

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	96	83%	94
Yes	19	17%	21

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

Hamilton College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 112.

Margin of error = +/- 9.3%.

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	0.3	<1%	1
Not very clear	14	12%	14
Somewhat clear	50	44%	51
Very clear	39	35%	36
Extremely clear	10	9%	10

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	0.3	<1%	1
Not very likely	27	24%	29
Somewhat likely	58	52%	59
Very likely	22	20%	19
Extremely likely	4	4%	4

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	14	13%	14
Somewhat uncomfortable	42	37%	47
Somewhat comfortable	40	35%	37
Very comfortable	16	15%	14

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	8	7%	6
Somewhat uncomfortable	43	38%	41
Somewhat comfortable	48	43%	50
Very comfortable	13	11%	15

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	17	15%	10
Somewhat uncomfortable	39	34%	37
Somewhat comfortable	34	30%	46
Very comfortable	23	21%	19

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	10	9%	7
Somewhat uncomfortable	29	26%	29
Somewhat comfortable	50	44%	52
Very comfortable	24	21%	24

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	34	31%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	40	35%	44
Somewhat comfortable	22	20%	29
Very comfortable	16	14%	9

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	14	12%	14
Rarely	31	28%	32
Occasionally, once or twice a month	41	37%	42
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	19	17%	18
Very often, nearly every day	7	6%	6

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	6	6%	11
Rarely	41	37%	43
Occasionally, once or twice a month	38	34%	38
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	17	15%	15
Very often, nearly every day	10	9%	5

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	2%	8
Rarely	46	41%	42
Occasionally, once or twice a month	32	28%	37
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	24	21%	18
Very often, nearly every day	9	8%	7

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	15	13%	17
Rarely	38	34%	36
Occasionally, once or twice a month	34	30%	34
Fairly often, a couple times a week	14	13%	18
Very often, nearly every day	11	10%	7

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	2	2%	5
Sometimes acceptable	28	25%	33
Rarely acceptable	40	36%	41
Never acceptable	41	37%	33

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	3	3%	3
Sometimes acceptable	13	12%	14
Rarely acceptable	33	30%	40
Never acceptable	62	56%	55

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0.6	1%	2
Sometimes acceptable	9	8%	7
Rarely acceptable	17	15%	19
Never acceptable	86	77%	84

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	54	49%	57
Probably should not allow this speaker	42	37%	36
Probably should allow this speaker	13	11%	14
Definitely should allow this speaker	3	3%	5

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	29	26%	34
Probably should not allow this speaker	39	35%	36
Probably should allow this speaker	36	32%	33
Definitely should allow this speaker	8	7%	9

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	47	42%	49
Probably should not allow this speaker	45	40%	44
Probably should allow this speaker	14	13%	12
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	5%	7

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	28	25%	22
Probably should not allow this speaker	26	23%	34
Probably should allow this speaker	51	46%	46
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	6%	10

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	31	27%	24
Probably should not allow this speaker	32	28%	34
Probably should allow this speaker	41	36%	44
Definitely should allow this speaker	9	8%	10

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	13	11%	11
Probably should not allow this speaker	38	34%	32
Probably should allow this speaker	45	40%	49
Definitely should allow this speaker	16	15%	20

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	72	64%	78
Yes	40	36%	34

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	72%	88
Yes	32	28%	24

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	71	63%	75
Yes	41	37%	37

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	96	86%	100
Yes	16	14%	12

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	87%	104
Yes	15	13%	8

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	98	88%	101
Yes	14	12%	11

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	69	61%	71
Yes	43	39%	41

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	81	72%	80
Yes	31	28%	32

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	91	81%	99
Yes	21	19%	13

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	74%	91
Yes	29	26%	21

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	88	78%	88
Yes	24	22%	24

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	84	75%	83
Yes	28	25%	29

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	74%	86
Yes	29	26%	26

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	60%	69
Yes	45	40%	43

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	31	28%	37
Yes	81	72%	75

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	69%	85
Yes	35	31%	27

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	74%	87
Yes	29	26%	25

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	87	78%	85
Yes	25	22%	27

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	69%	83
Yes	35	31%	29

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	87	77%	84
Yes	25	23%	28

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	99	88%	98
Yes	13	12%	14

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	60%	76
Yes	45	40%	36

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	103	92%	97
Yes	9	8%	15

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	17	15%	21
Rarely	51	46%	53
Occasionally, once or twice a month	24	22%	19
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	8	7%	12
Very often, nearly every day	11	10%	7

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.	2	1%	2
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	23	20%	12
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	88	78%	98

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	14	12%	18
Rarely	10	9%	15
Sometimes	27	24%	25
Fairly often	28	25%	27
Always	34	30%	27

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	43	39%	47
Rarely	29	26%	30
Sometimes	27	24%	23
Fairly often	11	9%	9
Always	2	2%	3

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	19	17%	25
Rarely	20	18%	24
Sometimes	37	33%	31
Fairly often	22	19%	21
Always	13	12%	11

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	67	60%	74
Rarely	23	21%	23
Sometimes	16	15%	8
Fairly often	5	4%	5
Always	0.8	1%	2

"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	17	15%	23
Rarely	20	18%	20
Sometimes	44	39%	38
Fairly often	19	17%	21
Always	11	10%	10

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	31	28%	34
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	46	42%	48
The professor probably should be fired from their job	27	24%	21
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	7	6%	9

"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	15	14%	18
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	51	46%	51
The professor probably should be fired from their job	42	37%	37
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	3	3%	6

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	25	23%	23
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	58	52%	54
The professor probably should be fired from their job	21	19%	25
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	7	6%	10

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	21	18%	19
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	52	46%	46
The professor probably should be fired from their job	26	23%	32
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	14	12%	15

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	35	31%	40
Less than once a year	9	8%	7
Once or twice a year	16	14%	23
Several times a year	19	17%	15
Once a month	14	12%	6
2-3 times a month	7	6%	7
About weekly	0.9	1%	3
Weekly	11	10%	9
Several times a week	0.6	1%	2

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	110	98%	111
Yes	2	2%	1

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	10%	2
Less than half the time	7	28%	9
About half the time	10	38%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	6	24%	8
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	14%	3
Less than half the time	14	66%	13
About half the time	3	15%	2
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.4	2%	1
Always	0.9	4%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	1	7%	3
Less than half the time	3	18%	4
About half the time	3	21%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	6	41%	4
Always	2	13%	2

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	6	30%	7
Less than half the time	5	23%	8
About half the time	7	31%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.8	4%	2
Always	3	14%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	1	5%	3
Less than half the time	5	18%	6
About half the time	9	35%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	7	25%	4
Always	5	17%	3

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	13	12%	14
Yes	99	88%	98

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	59	53%	59
Yes	53	47%	53

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	84%	98
Yes	18	16%	14

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	95	85%	101
Yes	17	15%	11

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	88	78%	86
Yes	24	22%	26

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	101	90%	103
Yes	11	10%	9

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	38	34%	43
Yes	74	66%	69

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	71%	81
Yes	32	29%	31

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	103	92%	101
Yes	9	8%	11

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	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	109	97%	110
Yes	3	3%	2

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	111
Yes	0.4	<1%	1

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	99%	111
Yes	0.9	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	99%	111
Yes	0.9	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	99%	111
Yes	0.9	1%	1

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	110	98%	111
Yes	2	2%	1

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	111
Yes	0.4	<1%	1

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	99%	111
Yes	0.9	1%	1

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	112	100%	112
Yes	0	0%	0

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	109	98%	111
Yes	3	2%	1

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	84%	89
Yes	18	16%	23

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Colby College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 150.

Margin of error = +/- 8.0%.

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	4	2%	5
Not very clear	28	19%	32
Somewhat clear	68	45%	66
Very clear	37	25%	38
Extremely clear	13	9%	9

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	8	5%	4
Not very likely	34	23%	40
Somewhat likely	69	46%	71
Very likely	30	20%	28
Extremely likely	10	7%	7

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	37	25%	35
Somewhat uncomfortable	54	36%	57
Somewhat comfortable	48	32%	44
Very comfortable	11	7%	14

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	21	14%	19
Somewhat uncomfortable	52	35%	50
Somewhat comfortable	51	34%	55
Very comfortable	26	17%	26

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	29	20%	26
Somewhat uncomfortable	43	29%	46
Somewhat comfortable	55	37%	55
Very comfortable	22	15%	23

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	25	17%	19
Somewhat uncomfortable	32	21%	40
Somewhat comfortable	47	32%	53
Very comfortable	45	30%	38

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	74	49%	60
Somewhat uncomfortable	45	30%	58
Somewhat comfortable	20	13%	24
Very comfortable	11	7%	8

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	12	8%	11
Rarely	51	34%	58
Occasionally, once or twice a month	41	28%	43
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	34	23%	28
Very often, nearly every day	11	8%	10

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	15	10%	15
Rarely	50	33%	52
Occasionally, once or twice a month	48	32%	52
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	25	17%	20
Very often, nearly every day	12	8%	11

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	10	6%	9
Rarely	50	33%	51
Occasionally, once or twice a month	49	33%	51
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	32	21%	30
Very often, nearly every day	9	6%	9

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	29	19%	28
Rarely	48	32%	53
Occasionally, once or twice a month	30	20%	32
Fairly often, a couple times a week	25	16%	24
Very often, nearly every day	18	12%	13

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	7	5%	6
Sometimes acceptable	31	20%	33
Rarely acceptable	68	45%	64
Never acceptable	44	29%	47

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	3	2%	3
Sometimes acceptable	21	14%	19
Rarely acceptable	52	34%	50
Never acceptable	73	49%	78

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	3	2%	3
Sometimes acceptable	9	6%	10
Rarely acceptable	14	9%	17
Never acceptable	124	83%	120

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	73	49%	76
Probably should not allow this speaker	36	24%	37
Probably should allow this speaker	32	21%	28
Definitely should allow this speaker	10	6%	9

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	44	29%	42
Probably should not allow this speaker	46	31%	45
Probably should allow this speaker	41	27%	46
Definitely should allow this speaker	19	13%	17

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	68	45%	76
Probably should not allow this speaker	49	33%	42
Probably should allow this speaker	27	18%	27
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	4%	5

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	27	18%	25
Probably should not allow this speaker	55	37%	53
Probably should allow this speaker	55	37%	56
Definitely should allow this speaker	12	8%	16

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	29	19%	25
Probably should not allow this speaker	47	32%	52
Probably should allow this speaker	60	40%	59
Definitely should allow this speaker	14	9%	14

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	19	13%	16
Probably should not allow this speaker	44	29%	41
Probably should allow this speaker	65	44%	67
Definitely should allow this speaker	21	14%	26

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	95	63%	103
Yes	55	37%	47

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	101	67%	100
Yes	49	33%	50

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	95	63%	98
Yes	55	37%	52

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	131	87%	131
Yes	19	13%	19

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	90%	135
Yes	14	10%	15

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	90%	135
Yes	14	10%	15

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	89	59%	94
Yes	61	41%	56

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	62%	97
Yes	58	38%	53

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	128	85%	125
Yes	22	15%	25

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	116	77%	118
Yes	34	23%	32

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	79%	119
Yes	32	21%	31

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	70%	107
Yes	46	30%	43

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	68%	102
Yes	48	32%	48

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	107	71%	107
Yes	43	29%	43

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	59	39%	57
Yes	91	61%	93

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	108	72%	111
Yes	42	28%	39

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	115	77%	121
Yes	35	23%	29

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	95	63%	95
Yes	55	37%	55

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	78%	114
Yes	32	22%	36

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	74%	106
Yes	39	26%	44

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	137	91%	137
Yes	13	9%	13

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	98	65%	105
Yes	52	35%	45

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	128	85%	130
Yes	22	15%	20

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	28	19%	28
Rarely	59	39%	61
Occasionally, once or twice a month	37	24%	34
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	17	11%	18
Very often, nearly every day	9	6%	9

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	2%	3
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	9	6%	11
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	137	92%	136

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	15	10%	16
Rarely	32	21%	28
Sometimes	29	19%	32
Fairly often	32	21%	35
Always	43	29%	39

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	55	36%	59
Rarely	40	27%	41
Sometimes	33	22%	27
Fairly often	19	13%	19
Always	3	2%	4

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	21	14%	26
Rarely	35	23%	37
Sometimes	44	29%	44
Fairly often	35	23%	31
Always	15	10%	12

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	97	65%	99
Rarely	30	20%	33
Sometimes	17	11%	13
Fairly often	2	2%	3
Always	3	2%	2

"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	21	14%	21
Rarely	37	25%	39
Sometimes	41	27%	42
Fairly often	37	25%	34
Always	14	10%	14

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	43	29%	48
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	73	50%	69
The professor probably should be fired from their job	24	16%	22
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	6	4%	7

"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	24	16%	24
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	74	51%	70
The professor probably should be fired from their job	34	23%	39
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	15	10%	13

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	42	29%	37
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	56	38%	64
The professor probably should be fired from their job	31	21%	30
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	18	12%	15

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	25	17%	24
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	60	41%	66
The professor probably should be fired from their job	45	30%	40
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	17	12%	16

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	46	31%	50
Less than once a year	19	13%	16
Once or twice a year	20	14%	22
Several times a year	20	14%	21
Once a month	11	7%	10
2-3 times a month	7	5%	5
About weekly	13	9%	14
Weekly	11	8%	8
Several times a week	0	0%	0

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	145	99%	144
Yes	1	1%	2

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	145	99%	144
Yes	1	1%	2

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	15%	5
Less than half the time	10	32%	8
About half the time	5	16%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	10	31%	10
Always	2	6%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	1.0	4%	1
Less than half the time	13	54%	16
About half the time	9	35%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	8%	3
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	10	23%	9
Less than half the time	13	31%	11
About half the time	11	27%	14
Most of the time, nearly every day	5	11%	5
Always	3	8%	4

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	9	27%	7
Less than half the time	17	55%	12
About half the time	5	16%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.4	1%	1
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	2	12%	1
Less than half the time	6	28%	8
About half the time	10	48%	9
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	12%	4
Always	0	0%	0

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	18	12%	20
Yes	132	88%	130

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	92	61%	94
Yes	58	39%	56

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	134	89%	133
Yes	16	11%	17

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	135	90%	135
Yes	15	10%	15

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	68%	106
Yes	48	32%	44

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	139	93%	139
Yes	11	7%	11

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	47%	65
Yes	80	53%	85

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	139	93%	135
Yes	11	7%	15

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	93%	137
Yes	10	7%	13

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	146	97%	145
Yes	4	3%	5

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	146	98%	147
Yes	4	2%	3

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	146	97%	146
Yes	4	3%	4

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	145	96%	144
Yes	5	4%	6

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	143	95%	142
Yes	7	5%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	147
Yes	2	1%	3

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	147
Yes	2	1%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	147	98%	146
Yes	3	2%	4

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	98%	147
Yes	2	2%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	98%	147
Yes	2	2%	3

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	147	98%	147
Yes	3	2%	3

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	100%	150
Yes	0	0%	0

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	90%	134
Yes	14	10%	16

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

Tufts University

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 216.

Margin of error = +/- 6.7%.

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	4	2%	3
Not very clear	31	14%	33
Somewhat clear	94	44%	99
Very clear	74	34%	70
Extremely clear	13	6%	11

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	2	1%	2
Not very likely	52	24%	53
Somewhat likely	106	49%	111
Very likely	50	23%	43
Extremely likely	6	3%	7

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	30	14%	33
Somewhat uncomfortable	97	45%	89
Somewhat comfortable	62	29%	66
Very comfortable	27	13%	28

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	18	8%	17
Somewhat uncomfortable	69	32%	73
Somewhat comfortable	95	44%	93
Very comfortable	35	16%	33

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	18	8%	21
Somewhat uncomfortable	80	37%	74
Somewhat comfortable	90	42%	92
Very comfortable	28	13%	29

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	15	7%	19
Somewhat uncomfortable	48	22%	49
Somewhat comfortable	108	50%	101
Very comfortable	45	21%	47

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	61	28%	66
Somewhat uncomfortable	90	42%	91
Somewhat comfortable	49	23%	46
Very comfortable	15	7%	13

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	23	11%	26
Rarely	90	41%	88
Occasionally, once or twice a month	65	30%	62
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	33	15%	34
Very often, nearly every day	6	3%	6

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	21	10%	22
Rarely	84	39%	89
Occasionally, once or twice a month	71	33%	69
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	36	17%	34
Very often, nearly every day	4	2%	2

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	16	7%	20
Rarely	74	34%	76
Occasionally, once or twice a month	85	39%	84
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	37	17%	33
Very often, nearly every day	4	2%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	30	14%	33
Rarely	76	35%	79
Occasionally, once or twice a month	66	31%	61
Fairly often, a couple times a week	36	16%	34
Very often, nearly every day	9	4%	9

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	4	2%	5
Sometimes acceptable	74	34%	79
Rarely acceptable	77	36%	77
Never acceptable	61	28%	55

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	4	2%	5
Sometimes acceptable	45	21%	44
Rarely acceptable	67	31%	69
Never acceptable	99	46%	98

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	2	1%	1
Sometimes acceptable	18	9%	18
Rarely acceptable	36	17%	38
Never acceptable	160	74%	159

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	117	54%	122
Probably should not allow this speaker	71	33%	66
Probably should allow this speaker	22	10%	23
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	3%	5

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	67	31%	77
Probably should not allow this speaker	58	27%	59
Probably should allow this speaker	66	31%	60
Definitely should allow this speaker	26	12%	20

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	114	53%	121
Probably should not allow this speaker	69	32%	63
Probably should allow this speaker	27	12%	26
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	3%	6

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	32	15%	33
Probably should not allow this speaker	87	40%	83
Probably should allow this speaker	66	30%	73
Definitely should allow this speaker	31	14%	27

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	38	17%	34
Probably should not allow this speaker	92	43%	86
Probably should allow this speaker	62	29%	73
Definitely should allow this speaker	24	11%	23

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	13	6%	14
Probably should not allow this speaker	61	28%	61
Probably should allow this speaker	102	47%	103
Definitely should allow this speaker	40	18%	38

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	164	76%	166
Yes	52	24%	50

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	169	78%	168
Yes	47	22%	48

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	166	77%	167
Yes	50	23%	49

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	194	90%	195
Yes	22	10%	21

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	202	94%	204
Yes	14	6%	12

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	197	91%	199
Yes	19	9%	17

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	165	77%	168
Yes	51	23%	48

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	172	80%	164
Yes	44	20%	52

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	194	90%	193
Yes	22	10%	23

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	188	87%	193
Yes	28	13%	23

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	183	85%	189
Yes	33	15%	27

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	183	85%	184
Yes	33	15%	32

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	184	85%	186
Yes	32	15%	30

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	169	78%	166
Yes	47	22%	50

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	65	30%	63
Yes	151	70%	153

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	171	79%	166
Yes	45	21%	50

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	194	90%	192
Yes	22	10%	24

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	172	79%	174
Yes	44	21%	42

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	165	77%	167
Yes	51	23%	49

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	179	83%	180
Yes	37	17%	36

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	196	91%	200
Yes	20	9%	16

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	175	81%	182
Yes	41	19%	34

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	188	87%	188
Yes	28	13%	28

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	36	17%	30
Rarely	101	47%	109
Occasionally, once or twice a month	53	25%	53
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	18	8%	17
Very often, nearly every day	8	4%	7

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.	3	1%	4
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	31	14%	26
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	182	84%	186

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	25	12%	21
Rarely	42	20%	37
Sometimes	65	31%	69
Fairly often	53	25%	56
Always	28	13%	30

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	98	46%	96
Rarely	57	27%	54
Sometimes	30	14%	38
Fairly often	20	9%	20
Always	6	3%	5

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	33	16%	33
Rarely	56	27%	51
Sometimes	55	26%	56
Fairly often	44	21%	48
Always	23	11%	25

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	134	63%	138
Rarely	46	22%	42
Sometimes	20	10%	25
Fairly often	5	2%	5
Always	6	3%	3

"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	38	18%	35
Rarely	55	26%	49
Sometimes	53	25%	55
Fairly often	50	24%	58
Always	15	7%	16

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	73	35%	72
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	93	45%	98
The professor probably should be fired from their job	32	15%	32
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	9	5%	9

"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	32	15%	34
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	110	53%	99
The professor probably should be fired from their job	54	26%	65
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	11	5%	13

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	42	21%	35
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	99	48%	97
The professor probably should be fired from their job	48	23%	59
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	18	9%	20

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	22	11%	25
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	88	43%	85
The professor probably should be fired from their job	80	39%	83
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	16	8%	18

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	74	36%	72
Less than once a year	22	11%	24
Once or twice a year	28	13%	32
Several times a year	38	18%	40
Once a month	7	4%	7
2-3 times a month	12	6%	8
About weekly	10	5%	14
Weekly	12	6%	9
Several times a week	3	2%	5

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	205	99%	209
Yes	1	1%	2

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	206	100%	211
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	15%	2
Less than half the time	12	37%	12
About half the time	8	27%	10
Most of the time, nearly every day	5	15%	7
Always	2	6%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	23%	13
Less than half the time	20	40%	22
About half the time	11	23%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	7	14%	4
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	12%	4
Less than half the time	12	26%	12
About half the time	14	31%	16
Most of the time, nearly every day	13	29%	13
Always	0.8	2%	2

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	15	29%	11
Less than half the time	27	53%	25
About half the time	7	13%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	5%	3
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	2	5%	2
Less than half the time	8	20%	7
About half the time	14	35%	18
Most of the time, nearly every day	15	36%	13
Always	1	3%	3

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	39	18%	29
Yes	177	82%	187

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	138	64%	129
Yes	78	36%	87

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	197	91%	195
Yes	19	9%	21

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	193	89%	191
Yes	23	11%	25

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	174	80%	171
Yes	42	20%	45

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	207	96%	204
Yes	9	4%	12

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	81	38%	73
Yes	135	62%	143

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	183	85%	180
Yes	33	15%	36

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	143	66%	137
Yes	73	34%	79

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	209	97%	213
Yes	7	3%	3

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	205	95%	208
Yes	11	5%	8

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	209	97%	212
Yes	7	3%	4

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	210	97%	211
Yes	6	3%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	203	94%	208
Yes	13	6%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	213	99%	215
Yes	3	1%	1

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	211	98%	214
Yes	5	2%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	208	96%	211
Yes	8	4%	5

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	210	97%	213
Yes	6	3%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	208	96%	212
Yes	8	4%	4

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	213	99%	215
Yes	3	1%	1

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	211	98%	214
Yes	5	2%	2

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	212	98%	214
Yes	4	2%	2

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	211	98%	214
Yes	5	2%	2

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	212	98%	214
Yes	4	2%	2

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	215	99%	214
Yes	1	1%	2

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	183	85%	178
Yes	33	15%	38

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Bowdoin College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 152.

Margin of error = +/- 7.9%.

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	10	7%	9
Not very clear	37	24%	35
Somewhat clear	54	36%	59
Very clear	45	29%	43
Extremely clear	6	4%	6

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	6	4%	5
Not very likely	53	35%	52
Somewhat likely	58	38%	56
Very likely	30	20%	31
Extremely likely	6	4%	8

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	39	25%	34
Somewhat uncomfortable	51	33%	51
Somewhat comfortable	45	30%	47
Very comfortable	18	12%	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	21	14%	21
Somewhat uncomfortable	56	37%	51
Somewhat comfortable	41	27%	46
Very comfortable	35	23%	34

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	25	16%	21
Somewhat uncomfortable	50	33%	52
Somewhat comfortable	50	33%	52
Very comfortable	27	18%	27

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	21	14%	18
Somewhat uncomfortable	34	22%	38
Somewhat comfortable	55	36%	52
Very comfortable	41	27%	44

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	80	53%	74
Somewhat uncomfortable	46	30%	48
Somewhat comfortable	14	9%	18
Very comfortable	12	8%	12

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	12	8%	13
Rarely	53	35%	56
Occasionally, once or twice a month	49	33%	46
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	34	22%	32
Very often, nearly every day	3	2%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	12	8%	12
Rarely	68	45%	66
Occasionally, once or twice a month	40	26%	41
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	27	18%	28
Very often, nearly every day	5	4%	5

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	9	6%	11
Rarely	57	38%	53
Occasionally, once or twice a month	53	35%	54
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	29	19%	28
Very often, nearly every day	4	3%	6

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	22	15%	20
Rarely	58	38%	55
Occasionally, once or twice a month	42	28%	46
Fairly often, a couple times a week	18	12%	19
Very often, nearly every day	12	8%	12

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	4	2%	5
Sometimes acceptable	43	28%	44
Rarely acceptable	56	37%	55
Never acceptable	50	33%	48

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	1	1%	2
Sometimes acceptable	14	9%	16
Rarely acceptable	47	31%	47
Never acceptable	90	59%	87

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0	0%	0
Sometimes acceptable	5	4%	7
Rarely acceptable	21	14%	22
Never acceptable	126	83%	123

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	64	42%	69
Probably should not allow this speaker	65	43%	61
Probably should allow this speaker	13	9%	13
Definitely should allow this speaker	9	6%	9

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	36	23%	40
Probably should not allow this speaker	60	40%	57
Probably should allow this speaker	41	27%	38
Definitely should allow this speaker	16	10%	17

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	64	42%	70
Probably should not allow this speaker	62	41%	57
Probably should allow this speaker	17	11%	16
Definitely should allow this speaker	8	5%	9

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	30	20%	27
Probably should not allow this speaker	57	38%	60
Probably should allow this speaker	51	33%	48
Definitely should allow this speaker	14	9%	17

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	37	24%	34
Probably should not allow this speaker	62	41%	58
Probably should allow this speaker	40	26%	44
Definitely should allow this speaker	13	8%	16

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	17	11%	15
Probably should not allow this speaker	39	26%	36
Probably should allow this speaker	68	44%	72
Definitely should allow this speaker	28	19%	29

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	108	71%	115
Yes	44	29%	37

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	115	76%	115
Yes	37	24%	37

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	50%	79
Yes	75	50%	73

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	139	91%	140
Yes	13	9%	12

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	145	96%	145
Yes	7	4%	7

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	144	95%	141
Yes	8	5%	11

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	62%	96
Yes	58	38%	56

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	78%	115
Yes	34	22%	37

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	120	79%	122
Yes	32	21%	30

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	131	86%	130
Yes	21	14%	22

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	132	87%	131
Yes	20	13%	21

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	103	68%	111
Yes	49	32%	41

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	73%	111
Yes	41	27%	41

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	69%	106
Yes	48	31%	46

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	43	28%	43
Yes	109	72%	109

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	77%	120
Yes	34	23%	32

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	78%	119
Yes	34	22%	33

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	106	70%	108
Yes	46	30%	44

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	128	84%	125
Yes	24	16%	27

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	77%	118
Yes	35	23%	34

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	137	90%	137
Yes	15	10%	15

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	114	75%	116
Yes	38	25%	36

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	90%	134
Yes	16	10%	18

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	31	20%	34
Rarely	65	43%	62
Occasionally, once or twice a month	36	24%	33
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	12	8%	12
Very often, nearly every day	8	5%	11

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.	3	2%	3
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	16	11%	15
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	133	87%	134

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	8	5%	11
Rarely	28	19%	23
Sometimes	40	27%	42
Fairly often	30	20%	30
Always	45	30%	45

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	62	41%	59
Rarely	46	31%	49
Sometimes	23	15%	25
Fairly often	9	6%	9
Always	10	7%	9

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	35	23%	36
Rarely	29	19%	29
Sometimes	27	18%	29
Fairly often	33	22%	31
Always	27	18%	26

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	102	68%	105
Rarely	36	24%	33
Sometimes	6	4%	6
Fairly often	3	2%	3
Always	3	2%	4

"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	25	16%	27
Rarely	36	24%	33
Sometimes	40	26%	41
Fairly often	32	21%	33
Always	18	12%	17

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	55	37%	56
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	64	42%	62
The professor probably should be fired from their job	25	17%	26
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	6	4%	5

"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	32	21%	33
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	64	42%	64
The professor probably should be fired from their job	41	27%	40
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	13	9%	12

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	41	27%	40
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	73	49%	72
The professor probably should be fired from their job	28	19%	29
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	8	5%	8

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	28	19%	30
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	56	38%	59
The professor probably should be fired from their job	50	33%	45
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	15	10%	15

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	59	39%	52
Less than once a year	17	11%	18
Once or twice a year	21	14%	25
Several times a year	31	21%	30
Once a month	8	5%	6
2-3 times a month	5	3%	6
About weekly	3	2%	4
Weekly	6	4%	7
Several times a week	0.3	<1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	148
Yes	1	1%	1

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	98%	148
Yes	2	2%	1

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	13%	4
Less than half the time	10	42%	12
About half the time	6	27%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	3	12%	5
Always	1	6%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	9	22%	8
Less than half the time	22	51%	20
About half the time	7	15%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	3	6%	2
Always	3	6%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	2	7%	3
Less than half the time	13	36%	13
About half the time	13	38%	14
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	12%	6
Always	2	7%	2

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	12	52%	10
Less than half the time	9	38%	9
About half the time	2	10%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	12%	3
Less than half the time	9	32%	9
About half the time	10	38%	10
Most of the time, nearly every day	3	12%	3
Always	2	6%	1

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	16	10%	19
Yes	136	90%	133

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	91	60%	92
Yes	61	40%	60

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	89%	134
Yes	16	11%	18

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	137	90%	135
Yes	15	10%	17

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	77%	119
Yes	35	23%	33

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	132	87%	131
Yes	20	13%	21

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	48	32%	50
Yes	104	68%	102

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	69%	106
Yes	48	31%	46

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	119	78%	115
Yes	33	22%	37

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	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	97%	148
Yes	4	3%	4

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	147	97%	148
Yes	5	3%	4

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	98%	149
Yes	4	2%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	98%	149
Yes	4	2%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	98%	149
Yes	3	2%	3

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	99%	151
Yes	2	1%	1

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	98%	149
Yes	3	2%	3

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	98%	150
Yes	2	2%	2

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	100%	151
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	133	87%	130
Yes	19	13%	22

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

Connecticut College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 155.

Margin of error = +/- 7.9%.

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	1	1%	1
Not very clear	11	7%	10
Somewhat clear	75	48%	72
Very clear	51	33%	58
Extremely clear	17	11%	14

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	3	2%	3
Not very likely	38	24%	34
Somewhat likely	73	47%	75
Very likely	32	21%	35
Extremely likely	10	6%	8

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	29	19%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	66	42%	68
Somewhat comfortable	36	23%	35
Very comfortable	24	15%	22

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	30	20%	22
Somewhat uncomfortable	39	25%	50
Somewhat comfortable	53	34%	52
Very comfortable	32	21%	31

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	23	15%	24
Somewhat uncomfortable	41	27%	39
Somewhat comfortable	62	40%	64
Very comfortable	28	18%	28

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	18	12%	16
Somewhat uncomfortable	34	22%	39
Somewhat comfortable	63	41%	64
Very comfortable	39	25%	36

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	50	32%	49
Somewhat uncomfortable	54	35%	54
Somewhat comfortable	34	22%	36
Very comfortable	17	11%	16

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	13	8%	20
Rarely	63	40%	57
Occasionally, once or twice a month	62	40%	54
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	14	9%	16
Very often, nearly every day	5	3%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	16	10%	20
Rarely	69	44%	65
Occasionally, once or twice a month	48	31%	44
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	15	10%	18
Very often, nearly every day	7	5%	8

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	15	9%	17
Rarely	69	44%	62
Occasionally, once or twice a month	43	28%	44
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	25	16%	25
Very often, nearly every day	4	2%	7

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	22	14%	20
Rarely	58	38%	58
Occasionally, once or twice a month	48	31%	49
Fairly often, a couple times a week	17	11%	18
Very often, nearly every day	10	6%	10

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	6	4%	6
Sometimes acceptable	44	29%	42
Rarely acceptable	67	43%	63
Never acceptable	38	25%	44

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	2	1%	3
Sometimes acceptable	21	14%	22
Rarely acceptable	55	35%	45
Never acceptable	77	50%	85

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	1	1%	1
Sometimes acceptable	11	7%	11
Rarely acceptable	25	16%	21
Never acceptable	118	76%	122

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	102	66%	100
Probably should not allow this speaker	28	18%	34
Probably should allow this speaker	20	13%	16
Definitely should allow this speaker	5	3%	5

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	64	41%	63
Probably should not allow this speaker	49	32%	54
Probably should allow this speaker	34	22%	31
Definitely should allow this speaker	7	5%	7

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	100	65%	100
Probably should not allow this speaker	33	21%	35
Probably should allow this speaker	16	10%	14
Definitely should allow this speaker	6	4%	6

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	28	18%	33
Probably should not allow this speaker	66	42%	59
Probably should allow this speaker	46	30%	45
Definitely should allow this speaker	15	10%	18

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	40	26%	36
Probably should not allow this speaker	63	41%	65
Probably should allow this speaker	38	25%	38
Definitely should allow this speaker	13	9%	16

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	18	11%	16
Probably should not allow this speaker	29	19%	34
Probably should allow this speaker	73	47%	71
Definitely should allow this speaker	35	23%	34

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	115	74%	107
Yes	40	26%	48

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	88%	128
Yes	19	12%	27

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	100	64%	101
Yes	55	36%	54

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	147	95%	146
Yes	7	5%	9

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	144	93%	143
Yes	11	7%	12

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	143	92%	138
Yes	12	8%	17

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	114	73%	112
Yes	41	27%	43

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	125	81%	131
Yes	30	19%	24

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	137	88%	131
Yes	18	12%	24

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	90%	134
Yes	15	10%	21

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	135	87%	131
Yes	20	13%	24

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	129	83%	122
Yes	26	17%	33

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	88%	132
Yes	19	12%	23

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	73%	111
Yes	42	27%	44

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	58	37%	63
Yes	97	63%	92

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	129	84%	128
Yes	26	16%	27

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	129	83%	121
Yes	26	17%	34

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	131	85%	124
Yes	24	15%	31

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	124	80%	121
Yes	31	20%	34

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	134	87%	132
Yes	21	13%	23

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	97%	144
Yes	5	3%	11

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	76%	108
Yes	38	24%	47

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	122	79%	127
Yes	33	21%	28

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	38	25%	38
Rarely	67	43%	65
Occasionally, once or twice a month	25	16%	31
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	21	14%	18
Very often, nearly every day	4	2%	3

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	3%	3
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	10	6%	8
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	141	91%	144

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	25	16%	24
Rarely	15	10%	17
Sometimes	31	21%	31
Fairly often	33	21%	37
Always	48	32%	44

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	68	45%	67
Rarely	46	30%	46
Sometimes	14	9%	18
Fairly often	19	13%	14
Always	5	3%	8

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	27	17%	25
Rarely	19	13%	31
Sometimes	35	23%	35
Fairly often	47	31%	37
Always	24	16%	25

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	105	69%	105
Rarely	32	21%	29
Sometimes	5	3%	8
Fairly often	4	3%	7
Always	6	4%	4

"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	21	14%	24
Rarely	21	14%	24
Sometimes	32	21%	31
Fairly often	45	30%	43
Always	33	21%	31

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	61	40%	57
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	65	43%	61
The professor probably should be fired from their job	20	13%	25
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	7	4%	9

"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	37	24%	32
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	61	40%	62
The professor probably should be fired from their job	33	22%	34
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	21	14%	24

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	29	19%	30
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	55	36%	56
The professor probably should be fired from their job	45	30%	46
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	23	15%	20

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	20	13%	22
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	55	36%	54
The professor probably should be fired from their job	59	39%	56
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	18	12%	20

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	53	35%	62
Less than once a year	27	18%	20
Once or twice a year	30	19%	29
Several times a year	12	8%	14
Once a month	7	5%	7
2-3 times a month	9	6%	10
About weekly	8	5%	2
Weekly	6	4%	7
Several times a week	1	1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	153	100%	152
Yes	0	0%	0

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	153	100%	152
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	19%	3
Less than half the time	9	31%	12
About half the time	5	17%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	9	32%	7
Always	0.3	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	6	18%	10
Less than half the time	16	52%	13
About half the time	5	16%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	5	15%	2
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	12%	5
Less than half the time	20	47%	14
About half the time	15	35%	15
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	6%	3
Always	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	7	30%	5
Less than half the time	8	35%	13
About half the time	7	31%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	0.8	3%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	10%	3
Less than half the time	6	20%	8
About half the time	7	24%	12
Most of the time, nearly every day	8	28%	9
Always	5	18%	3

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	16	10%	19
Yes	139	90%	136

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	50%	83
Yes	78	50%	72

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	134	87%	136
Yes	21	13%	19

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	125	81%	126
Yes	30	19%	29

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	125	81%	121
Yes	30	19%	34

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	90%	140
Yes	15	10%	15

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	74	48%	78
Yes	81	52%	77

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	121	78%	126
Yes	34	22%	29

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	88%	132
Yes	19	12%	23

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	150	97%	148
Yes	5	3%	7

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	151	98%	149
Yes	4	2%	6

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	151	98%	148
Yes	4	2%	7

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	152
Yes	3	2%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	97%	148
Yes	5	3%	7

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	150
Yes	3	2%	5

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	154	99%	152
Yes	1	1%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	97%	149
Yes	5	3%	6

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	150
Yes	3	2%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	151
Yes	3	2%	4

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	152
Yes	3	2%	3

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	154	99%	152
Yes	1	1%	3

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	151
Yes	3	2%	4

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	152
Yes	3	2%	3

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	152	98%	151
Yes	3	2%	4

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	155	100%	155
Yes	0	0%	0

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	126	81%	134
Yes	29	19%	21

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings

Trinity College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 161.

Margin of error = +/- 7.7%.

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	14	8%	17
Not very clear	44	27%	42
Somewhat clear	64	40%	59
Very clear	34	21%	38
Extremely clear	5	3%	5

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	16	10%	16
Not very likely	53	33%	50
Somewhat likely	67	42%	66
Very likely	18	11%	23
Extremely likely	7	4%	6

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	40	25%	38
Somewhat uncomfortable	61	38%	62
Somewhat comfortable	46	29%	46
Very comfortable	15	9%	15

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	30	19%	31
Somewhat uncomfortable	61	38%	59
Somewhat comfortable	47	29%	49
Very comfortable	23	14%	22

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	32	20%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	51	32%	54
Somewhat comfortable	66	41%	68
Very comfortable	12	7%	9

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	28	17%	23
Somewhat uncomfortable	49	30%	52
Somewhat comfortable	65	40%	67
Very comfortable	20	12%	19

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	62	39%	51
Somewhat uncomfortable	52	32%	57
Somewhat comfortable	37	23%	43
Very comfortable	10	6%	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	17	10%	17
Rarely	49	30%	49
Occasionally, once or twice a month	51	31%	51
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	34	21%	36
Very often, nearly every day	11	7%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	13	8%	15
Rarely	57	36%	55
Occasionally, once or twice a month	51	31%	53
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	29	18%	28
Very often, nearly every day	11	7%	10

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	7%	12
Rarely	45	28%	43
Occasionally, once or twice a month	63	39%	64
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	27	16%	29
Very often, nearly every day	16	10%	13

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	18	11%	19
Rarely	49	31%	44
Occasionally, once or twice a month	47	29%	50
Fairly often, a couple times a week	35	22%	37
Very often, nearly every day	12	8%	11

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	11	7%	9
Sometimes acceptable	46	29%	52
Rarely acceptable	65	40%	59
Never acceptable	39	24%	41

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	7	4%	5
Sometimes acceptable	28	18%	27
Rarely acceptable	51	32%	58
Never acceptable	74	46%	71

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	4	3%	4
Sometimes acceptable	21	13%	21
Rarely acceptable	24	15%	26
Never acceptable	111	69%	110

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	91	56%	90
Probably should not allow this speaker	43	27%	47
Probably should allow this speaker	13	8%	13
Definitely should allow this speaker	14	9%	11

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	77	48%	74
Probably should not allow this speaker	41	26%	44
Probably should allow this speaker	32	20%	32
Definitely should allow this speaker	10	6%	11

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	97	60%	96
Probably should not allow this speaker	44	27%	45
Probably should allow this speaker	15	9%	15
Definitely should allow this speaker	5	3%	5

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	60	37%	58
Probably should not allow this speaker	51	32%	55
Probably should allow this speaker	41	25%	39
Definitely should allow this speaker	9	6%	9

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	54	33%	51
Probably should not allow this speaker	65	41%	63
Probably should allow this speaker	32	20%	35
Definitely should allow this speaker	10	6%	12

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	45	28%	37
Probably should not allow this speaker	50	31%	54
Probably should allow this speaker	54	33%	58
Definitely should allow this speaker	12	8%	12

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	106	66%	95
Yes	55	34%	66

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	128	80%	125
Yes	33	20%	36

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	58%	91
Yes	67	42%	70

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	146	91%	141
Yes	15	9%	20

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	87%	135
Yes	21	13%	26

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	143	89%	139
Yes	18	11%	22

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	85	53%	84
Yes	76	47%	77

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	121	75%	118
Yes	40	25%	43

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	126	78%	124
Yes	35	22%	37

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	73%	115
Yes	43	27%	46

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	116	72%	118
Yes	45	28%	43

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	115	71%	111
Yes	46	29%	50

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	119	74%	111
Yes	42	26%	50

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	94	59%	90
Yes	67	41%	71

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	44%	65
Yes	91	56%	96

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	127	79%	119
Yes	34	21%	42

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	69%	112
Yes	50	31%	49

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	114	71%	111
Yes	47	29%	50

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	125	78%	120
Yes	36	22%	41

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	70%	106
Yes	48	30%	55

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	142	88%	138
Yes	19	12%	23

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	93	58%	87
Yes	68	42%	74

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	87%	140
Yes	21	13%	21

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	29	18%	25
Rarely	50	31%	56
Occasionally, once or twice a month	46	28%	45
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	29	18%	28
Very often, nearly every day	8	5%	7

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.	6	3%	5
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	22	13%	22
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	134	83%	134

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	36	22%	29
Rarely	20	13%	21
Sometimes	37	23%	36
Fairly often	36	23%	39
Always	32	20%	36

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	55	34%	49
Rarely	44	27%	46
Sometimes	32	20%	32
Fairly often	18	11%	20
Always	13	8%	14

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	38	24%	34
Rarely	32	20%	32
Sometimes	44	27%	43
Fairly often	31	19%	33
Always	16	10%	19

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	92	57%	95
Rarely	34	21%	34
Sometimes	21	13%	20
Fairly often	7	4%	8
Always	7	5%	4

"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	44	28%	38
Rarely	31	19%	34
Sometimes	45	28%	44
Fairly often	25	15%	26
Always	16	10%	19

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	56	35%	52
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	55	35%	60
The professor probably should be fired from their job	37	23%	35
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	11	7%	12

"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	32	20%	27
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	54	34%	57
The professor probably should be fired from their job	49	31%	48
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	24	15%	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	47	29%	39
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	58	36%	59
The professor probably should be fired from their job	35	22%	37
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	20	13%	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	34	22%	32
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	60	38%	60
The professor probably should be fired from their job	41	26%	43
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	23	14%	24

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	53	33%	52
Less than once a year	15	10%	14
Once or twice a year	27	17%	26
Several times a year	27	17%	26
Once a month	11	7%	11
2-3 times a month	9	5%	10
About weekly	12	7%	12
Weekly	5	3%	6
Several times a week	0.5	<1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	155	98%	155
Yes	3	2%	3

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	158	100%	158
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	14%	3
Less than half the time	12	41%	13
About half the time	7	25%	10
Most of the time, nearly every day	5	16%	3
Always	1	4%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	12	31%	11
Less than half the time	18	47%	18
About half the time	5	13%	6
Most of the time, nearly every day	3	8%	3
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	9%	3
Less than half the time	12	40%	12
About half the time	11	37%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	14%	5
Always	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	21	62%	18
Less than half the time	7	21%	8
About half the time	4	11%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	5%	2
Always	0.7	2%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	9%	3
Less than half the time	5	17%	6
About half the time	13	40%	11
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	12%	6
Always	7	21%	4

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	19	12%	22
Yes	142	88%	139

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	60%	96
Yes	64	40%	65

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	141	87%	144
Yes	20	13%	17

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	93%	147
Yes	11	7%	14

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	127	79%	126
Yes	34	21%	35

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	93%	149
Yes	11	7%	12

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	91	56%	89
Yes	70	44%	72

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	126	78%	125
Yes	35	22%	36

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	135	84%	136
Yes	26	16%	25

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	156	97%	156
Yes	5	3%	5

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	156	97%	155
Yes	5	3%	6

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	156	97%	154
Yes	5	3%	7

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	158	98%	156
Yes	3	2%	5

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	158	98%	157
Yes	3	2%	4

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	158	98%	157
Yes	3	2%	4

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	158	98%	157
Yes	3	2%	4

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	157	97%	156
Yes	4	3%	5

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	159	99%	158
Yes	2	1%	3

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	161	100%	160
Yes	0.4	<1%	1

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	125	78%	126
Yes	36	22%	35

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Bates College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 83.

Margin of error = +/- 10.8%.

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	3	4%	4
Not very clear	14	17%	10
Somewhat clear	24	29%	30
Very clear	33	40%	31
Extremely clear	9	11%	8

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	6	8%	9
Not very likely	30	36%	30
Somewhat likely	20	24%	26
Very likely	26	32%	16
Extremely likely	0.9	1%	2

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	19	23%	23
Somewhat uncomfortable	40	49%	34
Somewhat comfortable	16	19%	18
Very comfortable	8	9%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	18	21%	18
Somewhat uncomfortable	39	47%	31
Somewhat comfortable	13	16%	21
Very comfortable	13	16%	13

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	24	29%	17
Somewhat uncomfortable	20	24%	27
Somewhat comfortable	30	36%	30
Very comfortable	10	12%	9

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	12	14%	12
Somewhat uncomfortable	30	36%	24
Somewhat comfortable	24	29%	27
Very comfortable	17	21%	20

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	38	46%	27
Somewhat uncomfortable	26	31%	31
Somewhat comfortable	17	20%	19
Very comfortable	2	3%	6

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	9	11%	6
Rarely	34	41%	31
Occasionally, once or twice a month	22	27%	25
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	15	18%	13
Very often, nearly every day	3	4%	8

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	5	6%	8
Rarely	31	37%	26
Occasionally, once or twice a month	29	34%	25
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	7	8%	14
Very often, nearly every day	12	14%	10

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	7	8%	8
Rarely	35	43%	22
Occasionally, once or twice a month	23	27%	29
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	11	13%	14
Very often, nearly every day	7	9%	10

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	14%	10
Rarely	29	35%	25
Occasionally, once or twice a month	20	24%	26
Fairly often, a couple times a week	11	13%	12
Very often, nearly every day	12	14%	10

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	3	3%	6
Sometimes acceptable	13	16%	20
Rarely acceptable	39	47%	34
Never acceptable	28	34%	23

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0.3	<1%	1
Sometimes acceptable	9	11%	14
Rarely acceptable	23	28%	20
Never acceptable	51	61%	48

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	0	0%	0
Sometimes acceptable	2	3%	5
Rarely acceptable	5	6%	9
Never acceptable	76	91%	69

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	41	50%	45
Probably should not allow this speaker	35	42%	24
Probably should allow this speaker	2	3%	6
Definitely should allow this speaker	4	5%	8

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	26	31%	33
Probably should not allow this speaker	19	23%	21
Probably should allow this speaker	21	25%	17
Definitely should allow this speaker	17	20%	12

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	45	55%	52
Probably should not allow this speaker	28	34%	18
Probably should allow this speaker	7	9%	8
Definitely should allow this speaker	2	3%	5

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	22	27%	20
Probably should not allow this speaker	25	30%	27
Probably should allow this speaker	32	38%	27
Definitely should allow this speaker	4	5%	9

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	14	17%	16
Probably should not allow this speaker	35	43%	27
Probably should allow this speaker	30	36%	28
Definitely should allow this speaker	4	5%	12

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	8	9%	11
Probably should not allow this speaker	26	32%	21
Probably should allow this speaker	42	51%	42
Definitely should allow this speaker	7	8%	9

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	52	63%	56
Yes	31	37%	27

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	59	71%	61
Yes	24	29%	22

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	54	65%	56
Yes	29	35%	27

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	82%	70
Yes	15	18%	13

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	81%	71
Yes	16	19%	12

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	66	79%	70
Yes	17	21%	13

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	50	60%	52
Yes	33	40%	31

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	57	69%	60
Yes	26	31%	23

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	81%	68
Yes	16	19%	15

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	84%	69
Yes	13	16%	14

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	64	77%	69
Yes	19	23%	14

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	53	64%	56
Yes	30	36%	27

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	56	68%	58
Yes	27	32%	25

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	46	55%	53
Yes	37	45%	30

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	27	32%	22
Yes	56	68%	61

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	61	73%	63
Yes	22	27%	20

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	61	74%	67
Yes	22	26%	16

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	67	80%	62
Yes	16	20%	21

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	50	60%	53
Yes	33	40%	30

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	56	68%	57
Yes	27	32%	26

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	84%	71
Yes	13	16%	12

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	47	57%	53
Yes	36	43%	30

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	81	98%	79
Yes	2	2%	4

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	20	24%	18
Rarely	28	33%	31
Occasionally, once or twice a month	22	27%	19
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	10	12%	9
Very often, nearly every day	3	4%	6

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.	3	4%	1
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	5	6%	5
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	75	91%	77

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	16	20%	15
Rarely	14	17%	15
Sometimes	17	21%	21
Fairly often	25	30%	19
Always	10	12%	13

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	33	40%	36
Rarely	20	24%	18
Sometimes	16	20%	16
Fairly often	8	10%	6
Always	5	6%	7

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	17	21%	16
Rarely	8	9%	12
Sometimes	13	16%	14
Fairly often	29	35%	26
Always	16	19%	15

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	54	65%	55
Rarely	12	14%	13
Sometimes	13	15%	10
Fairly often	1	1%	3
Always	3	4%	2

"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	8	10%	11
Rarely	14	17%	15
Sometimes	16	19%	17
Fairly often	33	40%	24
Always	12	14%	16

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	21	26%	29
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	42	52%	31
The professor probably should be fired from their job	6	7%	10
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	12	15%	12

"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	13	16%	18
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	29	36%	28
The professor probably should be fired from their job	22	28%	22
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	16	20%	14

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	11	13%	18
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	36	44%	30
The professor probably should be fired from their job	18	22%	18
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	16	20%	16

"Our colleges and universities are progressive indoctrination centers."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	12	14%	14
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	29	36%	29
The professor probably should be fired from their job	28	35%	26
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	12	14%	13

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	44	55%	36
Less than once a year	7	9%	11
Once or twice a year	10	13%	15
Several times a year	9	11%	8
Once a month	5	6%	2
2-3 times a month	2	2%	5
About weekly	1	2%	2
Weekly	1	1%	2
Several times a week	1	1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	100%	81
Yes	0.3	<1%	1

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	100%	82
Yes	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0.3	5%	1
Less than half the time	2	31%	3
About half the time	0.3	5%	1
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	39%	4
Always	1	21%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0.7	3%	2
Less than half the time	20	82%	9
About half the time	3	13%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	0.3	1%	1
Always	0.3	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	16%	3
Less than half the time	7	25%	6
About half the time	13	50%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	2	9%	3
Always	0	0%	0

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	17%	4
Less than half the time	10	66%	11
About half the time	1	10%	5
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	1	7%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0.3	2%	1
Less than half the time	6	48%	4
About half the time	3	22%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	28%	3
Always	0	0%	0

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	8	9%	10
Yes	75	91%	73

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	40	48%	50
Yes	43	52%	33

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	66	80%	71
Yes	17	20%	12

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	75	90%	70
Yes	8	10%	13

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	59	71%	62
Yes	24	29%	21

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	77	93%	77
Yes	5	7%	6

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	41	49%	34
Yes	42	51%	49

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	72	87%	71
Yes	11	13%	12

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	70	84%	67
Yes	13	16%	16

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	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	79	95%	78
Yes	4	5%	5

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	79	96%	79
Yes	4	4%	4

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	79	96%	79
Yes	4	4%	4

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	80
Yes	3	4%	3

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	83	100%	83
Yes	0	0%	0

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	80	96%	75
Yes	3	4%	8

Topline Results: 2027 College Free Speech Rankings Middlebury College

School sample: datayear 2026.

Total number of students surveyed = 150.

Margin of error = +/- 8.0%.

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	6	4%	5
Not very clear	25	17%	23
Somewhat clear	67	45%	73
Very clear	49	33%	46
Extremely clear	2	1%	3

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	0.7	<1%	1
Not very likely	42	28%	33
Somewhat likely	73	49%	81
Very likely	33	22%	34
Extremely likely	0.7	<1%	1

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	32	21%	30
Somewhat uncomfortable	50	34%	52
Somewhat comfortable	55	36%	55
Very comfortable	13	9%	13

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	19	13%	19
Somewhat uncomfortable	48	32%	45
Somewhat comfortable	55	37%	58
Very comfortable	28	18%	28

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Very uncomfortable	18	12%	18
Somewhat uncomfortable	49	33%	46
Somewhat comfortable	61	41%	63
Very comfortable	23	15%	23

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	17	11%	18
Somewhat uncomfortable	41	27%	35
Somewhat comfortable	62	41%	66
Very comfortable	30	20%	31

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	60	40%	55
Somewhat uncomfortable	53	36%	52
Somewhat comfortable	30	20%	34
Very comfortable	7	5%	9

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	19	13%	17
Rarely	53	35%	54
Occasionally, once or twice a month	54	36%	56
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	21	14%	19
Very often, nearly every day	3	2%	4

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	15	10%	13
Rarely	61	41%	58
Occasionally, once or twice a month	45	30%	50
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	18	12%	18
Very often, nearly every day	11	7%	11

How often do you self-censor during classroom discussions?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	12	8%	11
Rarely	42	28%	41
Occasionally, once or twice a month	62	41%	64
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	19	13%	24
Very often, nearly every day	16	10%	10

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	28	19%	25
Rarely	44	29%	47
Occasionally, once or twice a month	48	32%	50
Fairly often, a couple times a week	14	9%	15
Very often, nearly every day	17	11%	13

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	8	5%	9
Sometimes acceptable	49	32%	49
Rarely acceptable	51	34%	53
Never acceptable	43	28%	39

Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	2	1%	3
Sometimes acceptable	28	19%	31
Rarely acceptable	48	32%	46
Never acceptable	72	48%	70

Using violence to stop a campus speech.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Always acceptable	2	2%	1
Sometimes acceptable	12	8%	13
Rarely acceptable	20	13%	24
Never acceptable	116	77%	112

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	65	44%	70
Probably should not allow this speaker	50	33%	50
Probably should allow this speaker	22	15%	20
Definitely should allow this speaker	13	9%	10

Abortion should be completely illegal.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	45	30%	45
Probably should not allow this speaker	39	26%	45
Probably should allow this speaker	46	31%	42
Definitely should allow this speaker	20	13%	18

Black Lives Matter is a hate group.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	70	47%	71
Probably should not allow this speaker	44	29%	50
Probably should allow this speaker	20	13%	16
Definitely should allow this speaker	16	11%	13

The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	20	13%	27
Probably should not allow this speaker	56	37%	53
Probably should allow this speaker	53	35%	51
Definitely should allow this speaker	22	14%	19

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	29	19%	27
Probably should not allow this speaker	54	36%	52
Probably should allow this speaker	50	33%	56
Definitely should allow this speaker	17	11%	15

Children should be able to transition without parental consent.

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Definitely should not allow this speaker	5	4%	9
Probably should not allow this speaker	37	25%	35
Probably should allow this speaker	76	51%	74
Definitely should allow this speaker	31	21%	32

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	110	73%	110
Yes	40	27%	40

Affirmative action

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	111	74%	112
Yes	39	26%	38

Charlie Kirk

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	65%	98
Yes	53	35%	52

China

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	131	88%	134
Yes	19	12%	16

Climate change

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	141	94%	139
Yes	9	6%	11

Crime

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	144	96%	144
Yes	6	4%	6

Donald Trump

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	102	68%	105
Yes	48	32%	45

Economic inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	79%	113
Yes	32	21%	37

Freedom of speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	123	82%	124
Yes	27	18%	26

Gay rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	129	86%	130
Yes	21	14%	20

Gender inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	123	82%	125
Yes	27	18%	25

Gun control

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	118	79%	118
Yes	32	21%	32

Hate speech

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	78%	118
Yes	33	22%	32

Immigration

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	110	73%	109
Yes	40	27%	41

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	68	45%	63
Yes	82	55%	87

Police misconduct

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	122	82%	123
Yes	28	18%	27

The 2024 presidential election

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	124	83%	123
Yes	26	17%	27

Racial inequality

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	108	72%	108
Yes	42	28%	42

Religion

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	117	78%	120
Yes	33	22%	30

Sexual assault

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	115	76%	117
Yes	35	24%	33

The Supreme Court

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	137	91%	135
Yes	13	9%	15

Transgender rights

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	97	65%	102
Yes	53	35%	48

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	132	88%	130
Yes	18	12%	20

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	31	20%	31
Rarely	76	50%	73
Occasionally, once or twice a month	24	16%	29
Fairly often, a couple of times a week	16	10%	12
Very often, nearly every day	4	3%	5

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.	1	1%	1
No, but I have been threatened with discipline.	16	11%	18
I have not been disciplined nor threatened with discipline.	133	88%	131

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	24	16%	26
Rarely	25	16%	27
Sometimes	39	26%	34
Fairly often	27	18%	29
Always	34	23%	34

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	57	38%	58
Rarely	54	36%	55
Sometimes	28	18%	24
Fairly often	5	3%	6
Always	7	4%	7

"Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	33	22%	33
Rarely	31	21%	35
Sometimes	34	22%	34
Fairly often	31	20%	28
Always	22	15%	20

"Debate me. Prove me wrong."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	109	73%	107
Rarely	28	18%	26
Sometimes	7	5%	9
Fairly often	5	3%	7
Always	1	1%	1

"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	27	18%	30
Rarely	28	19%	29
Sometimes	40	27%	39
Fairly often	31	20%	31
Always	24	16%	21

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	47	31%	50
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	74	49%	74
The professor probably should be fired from their job	17	12%	17
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	12	8%	9

"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	37	25%	33
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	65	43%	65
The professor probably should be fired from their job	38	26%	41
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	10	6%	11

"We are going to make America great again."

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
The professor definitely should not be fired from their job	46	31%	43
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	55	37%	58
The professor probably should be fired from their job	35	23%	34
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	13	9%	15

"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	26%	38
The professor probably should not be fired from their job	65	43%	61
The professor probably should be fired from their job	34	22%	38
The professor definitely should be fired from their job	13	9%	13

How often do you attend church or religious services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	55	37%	50
Less than once a year	19	12%	20
Once or twice a year	25	17%	26
Several times a year	21	14%	24
Once a month	10	7%	10
2-3 times a month	10	7%	11
About weekly	4	3%	4
Weekly	4	2%	4
Several times a week	1	1%	1

Are you currently a member of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

Are you a veteran of the armed services?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	150	100%	149
Yes	0.5	<1%	1

How often would you say that you feel anxious?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	3	10%	3
Less than half the time	10	34%	12
About half the time	8	27%	9
Most of the time, nearly every day	7	24%	7
Always	1	5%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	11	42%	12
Less than half the time	12	45%	11
About half the time	3	13%	4
Most of the time, nearly every day	0	0%	0
Always	0	0%	0

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	4	12%	3
Less than half the time	19	54%	14
About half the time	7	21%	7
Most of the time, nearly every day	4	11%	4
Always	0.3	1%	1

How often would you say that you feel depressed?

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	9	30%	9
Less than half the time	15	50%	15
About half the time	3	10%	3
Most of the time, nearly every day	1	4%	2
Always	2	6%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
Never	0	0%	0
Less than half the time	9	26%	8
About half the time	9	26%	8
Most of the time, nearly every day	13	40%	12
Always	2	7%	3

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

Social media

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	31	21%	25
Yes	119	79%	125

Television

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	104	69%	101
Yes	46	31%	49

Radio

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	136	91%	134
Yes	14	9%	16

Radio or television website

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	140	93%	137
Yes	10	7%	13

Podcast

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	100	67%	100
Yes	50	33%	50

Newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	130	86%	129
Yes	20	14%	21

Newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	62	41%	63
Yes	88	59%	87

Student newspaper (print)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	113	76%	110
Yes	37	24%	40

Student newspaper (online)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	119	79%	117
Yes	31	21%	33

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	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Using physical force to prevent people from entering the event

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	100%	149
Yes	0.7	<1%	1

Physical assault on people in attendance

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	146	97%	147
Yes	4	3%	3

Physical assault on the speaker

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Incendiaries or fireworks aimed at the venue

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	148	99%	148
Yes	2	1%	2

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	148
Yes	1	1%	2

Bomb threats

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

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

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Use of firearms (e.g., rifle)

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Arson

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Kidnapping

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Detaining or restraining people

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Murder

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	149
Yes	1	1%	1

Something else (please specify):

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	149	99%	148
Yes	1	1%	2

None of the above

Response	Weighted n	Percent	Unweighted n
No	121	81%	118
Yes	29	19%	32



FIRE

Foundation for Individual
Rights and Expression

P.O. Box 40128
Philadelphia, PA 19106
T: 215.717.3473
www.fire.org

DOWNLOAD THE 2027 COLLEGE
FREE SPEECH RANKINGS REPORT

rankings.fire.org



@thefireorg