

FIRE/College Pulse Student Encampments Survey

This survey sampled 3,803 undergraduate students at 30 four-year colleges and universities in the United States. 29 of these schools were randomly selected from the 257 schools FIRE surveyed for the forthcoming 2025 College Free Speech Rankings. Columbia University was specifically selected for inclusion because the encampment protests began there.

This survey was conducted between May 17, 2024 and June 25, 2024, and has a margin of error of +/- 2%.

How aware are you, if at all, of your college campus' written policies on campus protests?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not aware at all	733	19
Not very aware	1093	29
Somewhat aware	1284	34
Very aware	480	13
Extremely aware	212	6

To the best of your knowledge, do your college campus' written policies allow students to engage in the following protest actions on campus?

(Asked of 3,076 students. Students who said they were "not aware at all" of their school's written policies on campus protests were not asked this question.)

Protest action	Allowed on campus	Not allowed on campus	Not sure
Create a petition.	81%	3%	16%
Hold a sign.	80%	4%	16%
Hand out flyers.	77%	5%	18%
March for long distances.	61%	9%	30%
Distribute or post materials anonymously.	50%	13%	37%
Engage in a hunger strike.	32%	12%	56%
Use amplified sound.	28%	25%	47%
Establish encampments.	15%	48%	36%
Burn an American flag.	8%	50%	42%
Occupy buildings.	7%	62%	31%
Deface school property.	4%	82%	15%