

UChicago/AP-NORC Free Expression Poll

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from the University of Chicago

Interviews: 09/7-11/2023

1,095 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.97 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

PAMR1. Do you think each of the following should be a major purpose, minor purpose, or not a purpose of colleges and universities in the United States?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Major purpose	Minor purpose	Not a purpose	DK	SKP/REF
To teach students to be critical thinkers	76	16	6	*	2
To teach students specific skills and knowledge that can be used in the workplace	82	12	4	-	2
To advance knowledge and innovative ideas	78	15	5	*	2
To support the free exchange and debate of different ideas and values	62	28	8	*	2
To create a learning environment where students feel respected and included	66	25	8	-	1
To advance equity and inclusion	46	31	21	*	2
To foster a sense of community and social connections among students	47	38	13	*	2
To prepare students for active citizenship and civic engagement	54	32	12	*	2

N=1,095

PAMR2. To what extent can the following groups freely speak their minds on college and university campuses in the United States today?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	A lot/Some NET	A lot	Some	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP/REF
Liberals	80	47	34	17	12	6	*	2
Conservatives	61	20	40	37	24	13	*	2
College and university professors	75	31	44	22	15	7	*	2
College and university students	76	33	43	21	15	6	*	2
Campus guest speakers and visiting scholars	71	24	47	26	19	7	*	2
Black people	76	39	37	22	16	6	*	2
Hispanic people	72	32	40	25	18	7	*	2
Asian people	69	29	40	29	21	8	*	2
White people	77	48	29	21	13	7	*	2
Gay and lesbian people	74	38	36	24	16	7	*	2
Transgender people	66	35	31	31	19	12	1	2
Straight people	71	43	27	26	17	10	*	2

N=1,095

PAMR3. In general, do you think that colleges and universities do a good job, a bad job, or neither a good job nor a bad job at providing a respectful and inclusive environment for each of the following groups?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Very/ Somewhat good job NET	Very good job	Somewhat good job	Neither a good job nor a bad job	Very/ Somewhat bad job NET	Somewhat bad job	Very bad job	DK	SKP/REF
Liberals	46	23	23	40	11	6	5	1	2
Conservatives	27	6	21	44	26	13	13	1	2
College and university professors	39	10	29	46	12	9	3	1	2
College and university students	43	10	32	44	11	7	4	1	2
Campus guest speakers and visiting scholars	37	11	26	46	14	11	4	1	2
Black people	42	15	26	36	20	13	7	1	2
Hispanic people	40	13	27	38	19	14	6	1	2
Asian people	37	11	26	41	19	13	7	1	2
White people	47	25	22	36	15	9	6	1	2
Gay and lesbian people	44	18	25	36	17	12	6	1	2
Transgender people	38	17	21	36	23	12	11	1	2
Straight people	44	23	21	37	16	7	9	1	2

N=1,095

PAMR4. Which do you think is the bigger problem for each of the following these days?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	People being allowed to say harmful or misleading things	People being prevented from saying what they want	DK	SKP/REF
Colleges and universities	54	42	1	3
K-12 public schools	60	36	1	3
Social media platforms	72	26	1	2

N=1,095

PAMR5. Below are a few specific examples of some things you might see students do on a college or university campus. Do you think students should be allowed or not allowed to do each of the following on campus?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	DK	SKP/REF
Express sexist views	29	68	*	3
Express racist views	25	72	*	3
Express anti-LGBTQ+ views	39	58	*	2
Promote the views of a specific religion	50	47	*	2
Promote the views of a specific political group	54	43	*	3
Invite academic speakers accused of using offensive speech	41	55	*	3
Invite comedians, musicians, or other entertainers accused of using offensive speech	49	48	*	3

N=1,095

PAMR6. Below are a few specific examples of some things you might see professors do on a college or university campus. Do you think professors should be allowed or not allowed to do each of the following on campus?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	DK	SKP/REF
Teach a curriculum that includes polarizing ideas	47	50	1	3
Conduct a scientific study on a topic some students find offensive	59	38	*	2
Express sexist views	17	80	*	3
Express racist views	17	81	*	2
Express anti-LGBTQ+ views	23	74	*	2
Promote the views of a specific religion	28	69	*	2
Promote the views of a specific political group	28	69	*	3
Invite academic speakers accused of using offensive speech	38	59	*	3

N=1,095

PAMR7. Do you think college and university officials should or should not be able to do each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Yes, should be able to	No, should not be able to	DK	SKP/REF
Fire a tenured professor for using speech that some people find offensive	36	61	*	3
Restrict who is invited to speak on campus	51	46	*	3
Restrict which books students are assigned to read for class	25	73	*	3
Restrict which films or music students are assigned to watch or listen to for class	26	71	*	2

N=1,095

PAMR8. Do you think state governments should or should not be able to restrict what professors teach at state universities?

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Yes, should be able to	30
No, should not be able to	68
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

N=

1,095

PAMR9. Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for students to protest in each of the following ways a speaker or event on campus that they find offensive?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023	Acceptable	Unacceptable	DK	SKP/REF
Engage in a disruptive protest at the event that prevents the speaker from communicating to the audience	15	83	*	2
Engage in a disruptive protest outside the event that prevents people from attending the event	14	84	*	2
Engage in peaceful, non-disruptive protest at the event	83	15	*	2
Engage in peaceful, non-disruptive protest outside the event	89	9	*	2

N=1,095

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

If Democrat:

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?

If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Democrat NET	47
Strong Democrat	17
Not so strong Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	12
Independent/None – Don't lean	16
Republican NET	37
Lean Republican	9
Not so strong Republican	14
Strong Republican	15

N=

1,095

D3. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

If liberal:

D4. Do you consider yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?

If conservative:

IDEO. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?

Combines D3, D4, D5:

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Liberal NET	25
Very liberal	12
Somewhat liberal	13
Moderate	47
Conservative NET	26
Somewhat conservative	15
Very conservative	11
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,095

AGE

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	24
60+	31

N=

1,095

GENDER

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Male	49
Female	51

N=

1,095

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RACE/ETHNICITY

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
White, non-Hispanic	61
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,095</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Married	49
Not married	51
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,095</i>

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Employed	57
Not employed	43
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,095</i>

EDUCATION

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Less than a high school diploma	9
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	26
College graduate or above	21
Post grad study/professional degree	15
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,095</i>

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CENSUS REGION

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Northeast NET	17
New England	5
Mid-Atlantic	13
Midwest NET	21
East North Central	14
West North Central	6
South NET	38
South Atlantic	20
East South Central	6
West South Central	12
West NET	24
Mountain	8
Pacific	16

N= 1,095

HOME OWNERSHIP

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	70
Rented for cash	28
Occupied without payment of cash rent	2

N= 1,095

INCOME

	UChicago/AP-NORC 09/7-11/2023
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	7
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	6
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	19
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	16
\$150,000 or more	14

N= 1,095

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from the University of Chicago.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 7 and 11, 2023 with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,095 completed the survey—1,060 via the web and 35 by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 16.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 21.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 78.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.7 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.97 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 50 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design.

Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2023 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

Complete questions and results are available at: apnorc.org.

Additional information on the AmeriSpeak Panel methodology is available at:

<https://amerispeak.norc.org/about-amerispeak/Pages/Panel-Design.aspx>.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. www.ap.org
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

About the Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression at the University of Chicago

The University of Chicago's [Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression](https://thechicagoforum.uchicago.edu), launching in October 2023, aims to promote the understanding, practice and advancement of free and open discourse. It builds on UChicago's historic commitment, since its founding in 1890, to the principles of free speech and academic freedom, and their importance to rigorous and open scholarly inquiry. Since that time, UChicago has continued to be a leading global advocate for the advancement of free expression, including developing the Chicago Principles, a statement outlining the importance of free expression and academic freedom that has been adopted by universities and colleges across the country. More information is available on the Chicago Forum's website: <https://thechicagoforum.uchicago.edu>