CAMPUS EXPERIENCE SURVEY

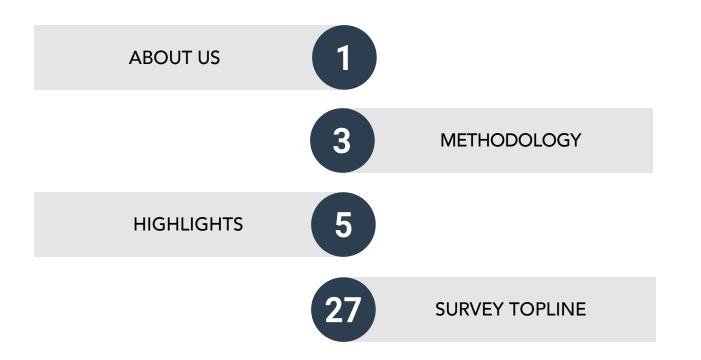
An Assessment of Arizona University Students

NOVEMBER 2024

AN ACTA/COLLEGE PULSE REPORT







About Us

About Us

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI (ACTA)

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability at America's colleges and universities. Founded in 1995, ACTA works with alumni, donors, trustees, and education leaders across the country to support the study of the liberal arts, uphold high academic standards, safeguard the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensure that the next generation receives an intellectually rich, high-quality education at an affordable price.

Our network consists of alumni and trustees from over 1,300 colleges and universities, including over 23,000 current board members. Our quarterly newsletter, *Inside Academe*, reaches over 15,000 readers.

For more information, visit <u>GoACTA.org</u>.

COLLEGE PULSE

College Pulse is a survey research and analytics company dedicated to understanding the attitudes, preferences, and behaviors of today's college students. College Pulse offers custom data-driven marketing and research solutions, utilizing its unique American College Student Panel[™] that includes over 850,000 college students and recent alumni from more than 1,500 two- and four-year colleges and universities in all 50 states.

For more information, visit <u>collegepulse.com</u> or College Pulse's official X account @<u>CollegeInsights</u>.

Methodology

This survey was designed and conducted by College Pulse between May 15, 2024, and August 15, 2024. Surveys were completed by a sample of 3,294 undergraduate students who attended Arizona State University (n=1,372), Northern Arizona University (n=853), or University of Arizona (n=1,609).

The sample was drawn from College Pulse's American College Student Panel[™] that includes over 850,000 verified students representing more than 1,500 different colleges and universities in all 50 states. Panel members are recruited by a number of methods to help ensure diversity in the panel population, including web advertising, permission-based email campaigns, and partnerships with university organizations. To reduce the effects of any non-response bias, a post-stratification adjustment was applied based on demographic distributions of the undergraduate populations at the three target institutions. These demographic distributions are derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The post-stratification weight rebalanced the sample based on the following benchmarks: gender, race and ethnicity, voter registration, financial aid status, and class year. The sample weighting was accomplished using an adjustment process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. The frequencies presented in this report, including the political breakdown, are weighted counts to accurately represent the demographic and political composition of the undergraduate population.

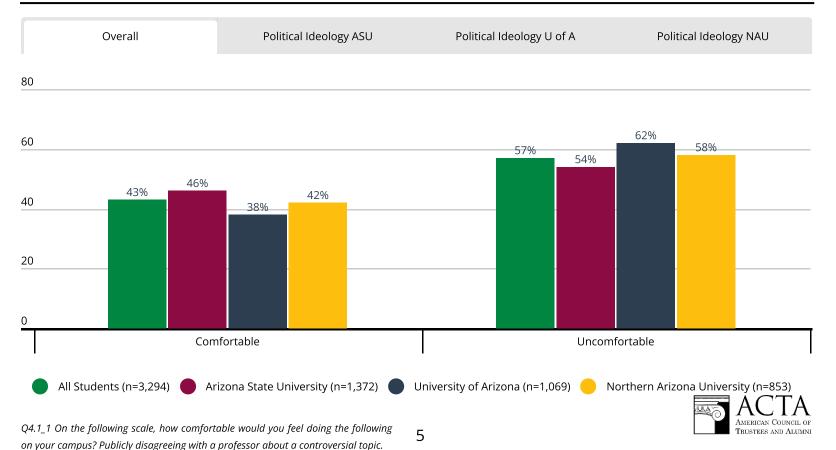
The margin of error for this survey ranges from +/- 2–3 percentage points. Margins of error are typically calculated on probability-based samples and are not technically correct for non-probability online samples. We supply them here to provide a general assessment of error ranges that may be associated with the data.

For more information about our methodology, <u>click here</u> or contact methodology@collegepulse.com.

Highlights

University of Arizona students are the least likely to feel comfortable disagreeing with a professor about a controversial topic.

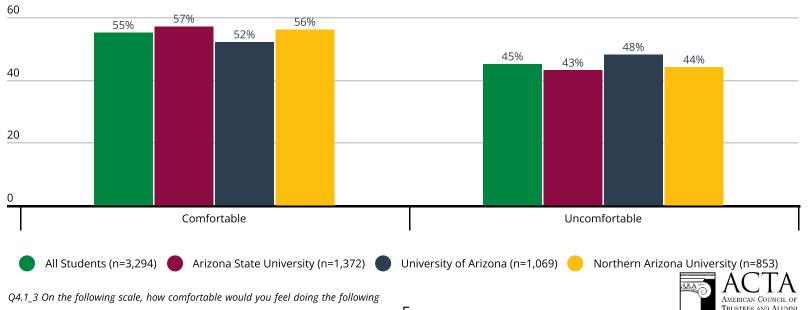
• Conservative students are the least likely to feel comfortable disagreeing with a professor about a controversial topic at Arizona State University (ASU) and Northern Arizona University (NAU), but not at the University of Arizona (U of A).



Conservative students are less likely than liberal students to feel comfortable expressing views on a controversial political topic during a class discussion.

• Almost half (45%) of students at the three Arizona schools feel uncomfortable expressing their views on a controversial political topic in class.



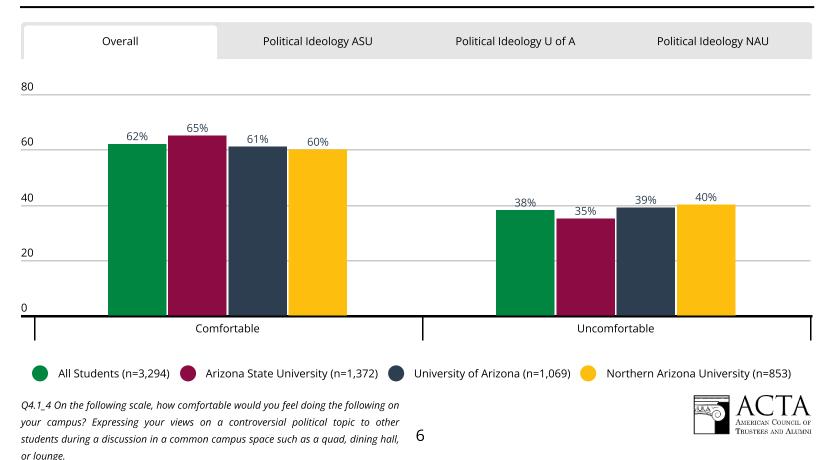


5

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

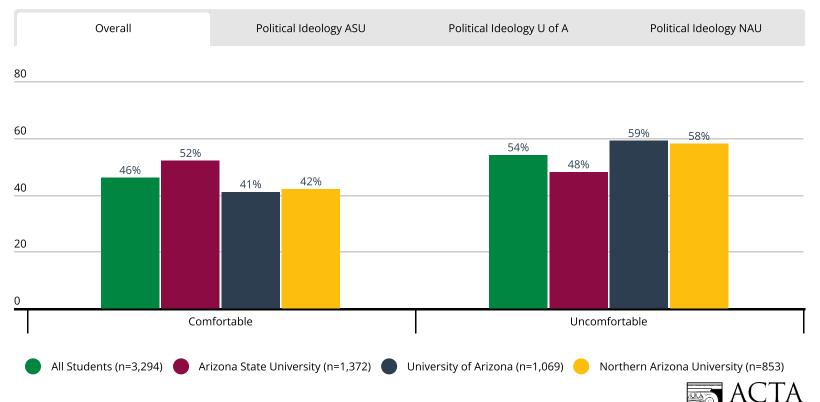
ASU students are more likely than NAU and U of A students to say they would feel comfortable expressing views on a political topic in a common campus space.

• Liberal students are more likely than conservative students across all three Arizona schools to feel comfortable expressing their views on a controversial political topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space.



ASU students are the most likely to feel comfortable expressing an unpopular opinion to fellow students on a personal social media account.

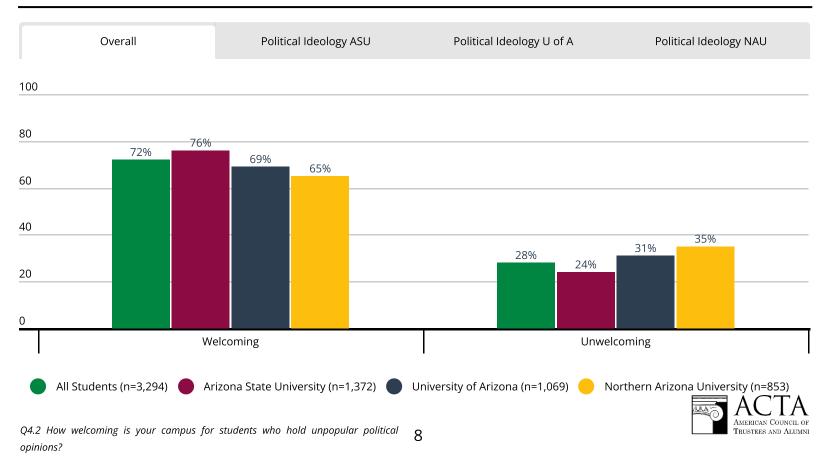
• Liberal students are more likely than conservative students at ASU and NAU (but not U of A) to feel comfortable expressing an unpopular opinion to their fellow students on a personal social media account.



Q4.1_5 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on a social 7 media account tied to your name.

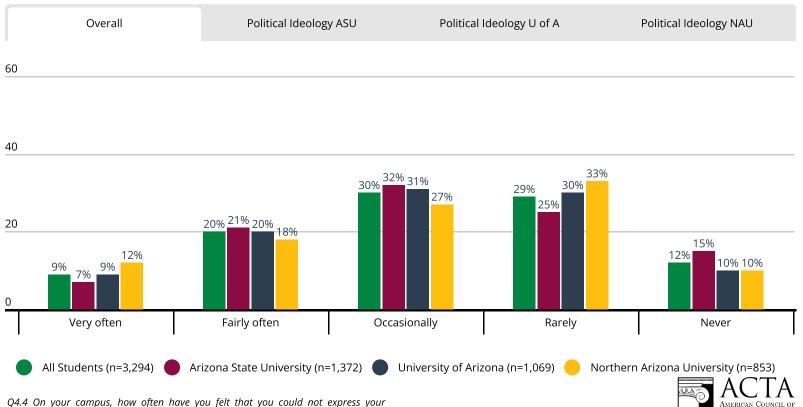
ASU students are the most likely to say their campus is welcoming for students who hold unpopular political opinions.

• At all Arizona schools, conservative students are more likely than liberal students to say that their school is unwelcoming to students with unpopular political opinions.



Conservative students across all Arizona schools are more likely than liberal students to often withhold opinions due to fear of how others may respond.

• Twenty-nine percent of students across all Arizona schools say they often feel that they cannot express their opinion on a subject because of how others may respond.

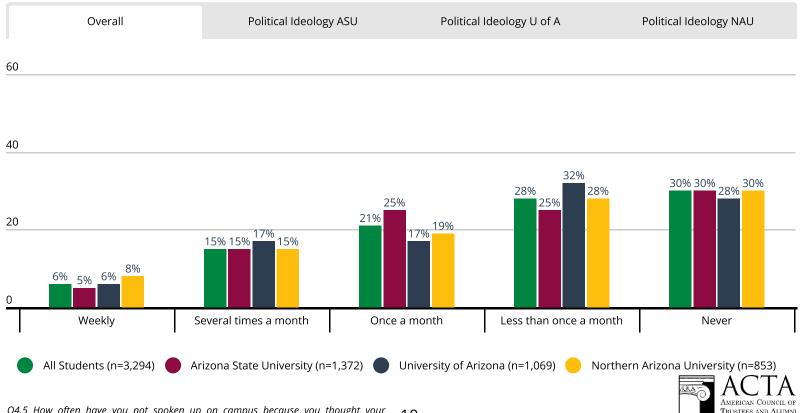


TRUSTEES AND ALUMN

opinion on a subject because of how students, a professor, or the administration 9 would respond?

Conservative students are more likely than liberal students to say they have not spoken up on campus because they thought their opinion would be unwelcome.

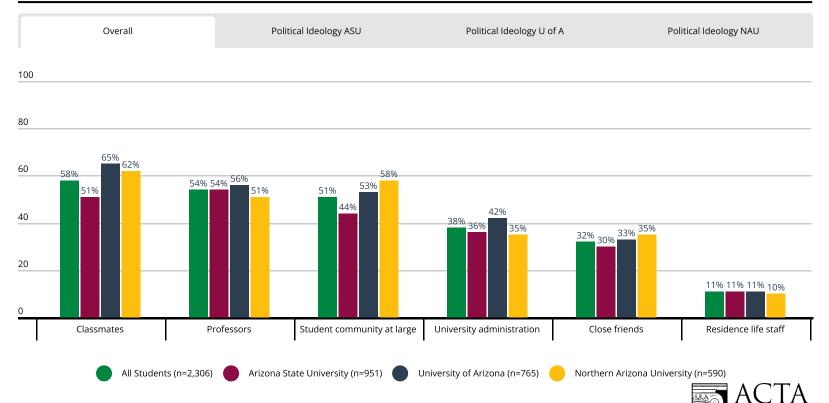
• Roughly one-fifth (21%) of students do not speak up on campus several times a month or more because they feel their opinion would be unwelcome.



Q4.5 How often have you not spoken up on campus because you thought your opinion would be unwelcome?

When students choose not to speak up, they are primarily worried about classmates, professors and the student community at large.

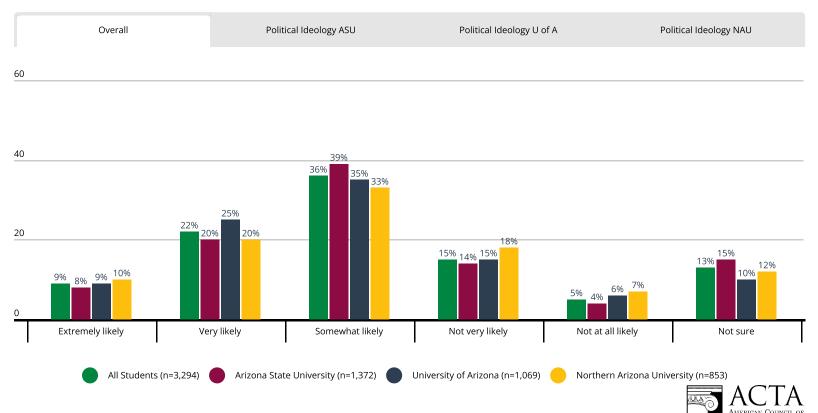
- When ASU students do not share their perspective, they are the least likely to be worried about their fellow classmates' responses.
- Conservative students (66%) at ASU are more likely to be worried about the response from professors if they share unpopular opinions than they are worried about the response from the broader student community.



TRUSTEES AND ALUMN

U of A students are the most likely to say the administration would defend controversial speakers' rights to express their views.

• Conservative students at NAU and ASU (but not at U of A) are more likely than liberal students to feel that their administration is not likely to defend speakers' rights to express their views.



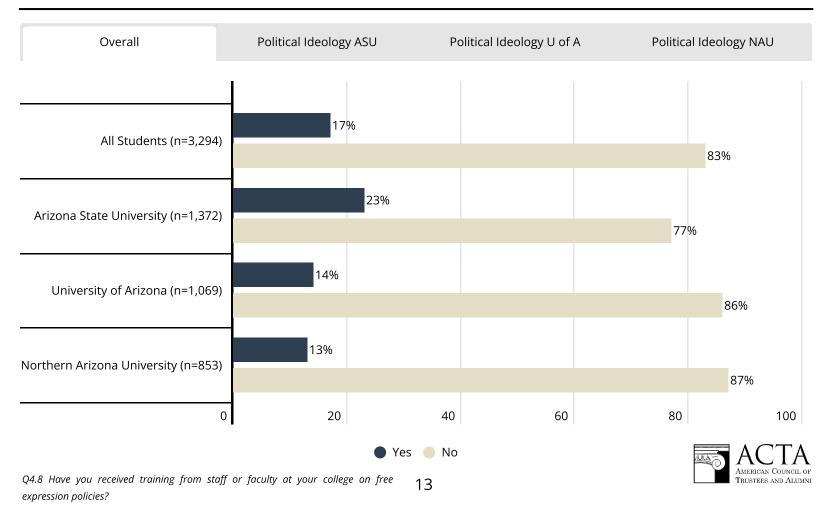
12

TRUSTEES AND ALUMN

Q4.7 If a controversy over offensive speech were to occur on your campus, how likely is it that the administration would defend the speaker's right to express their views?

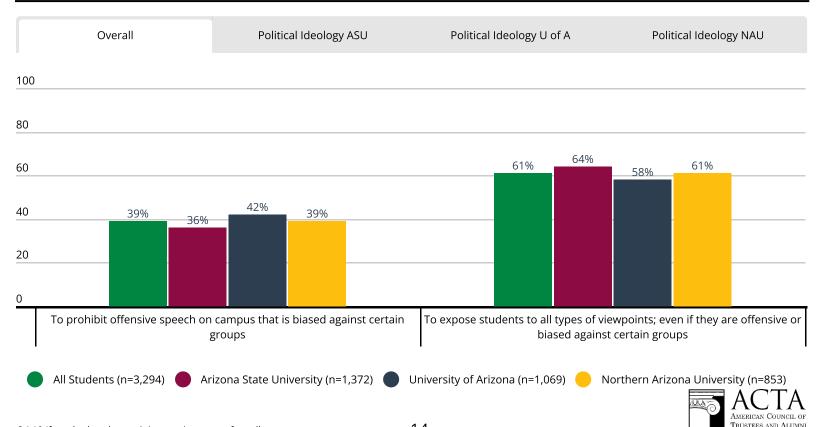
Very few students have received formal training on free expression policies.

• ASU students are more likely to have received formal free expression training than students at NAU or U of A.



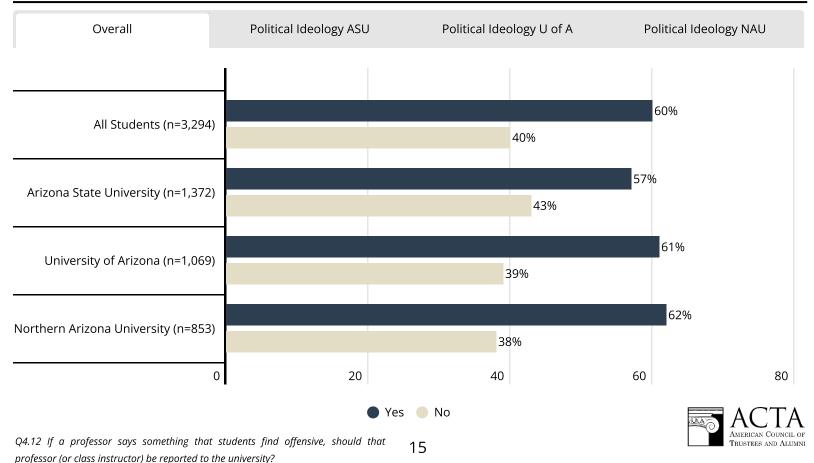
Students at all three schools state that exposure to all viewpoints and groups is more important than prohibiting speech.

• Conservative students at all three schools are significantly less likely than liberal students to favor prohibiting offensive speech on campus.



More than half of students across all three schools believe that if professors say something that students find offensive, they should be reported.

• Liberal students are significantly more likely than conservative students to believe professors should be reported to the university for saying something a student finds offensive.

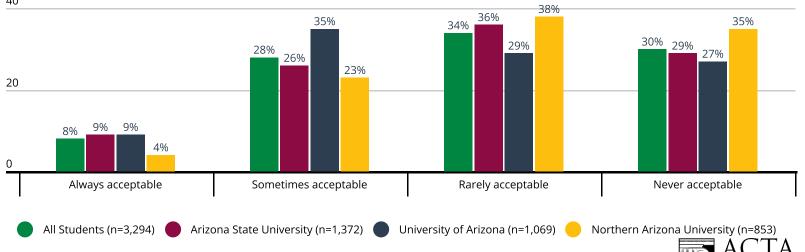


Students at U of A are the most likely to say that shouting down speakers to prevent them from speaking is acceptable.

• Liberal students are significantly more likely than conservative students across all three schools to say it is acceptable to shout down speakers to prevent them from speaking on campus.



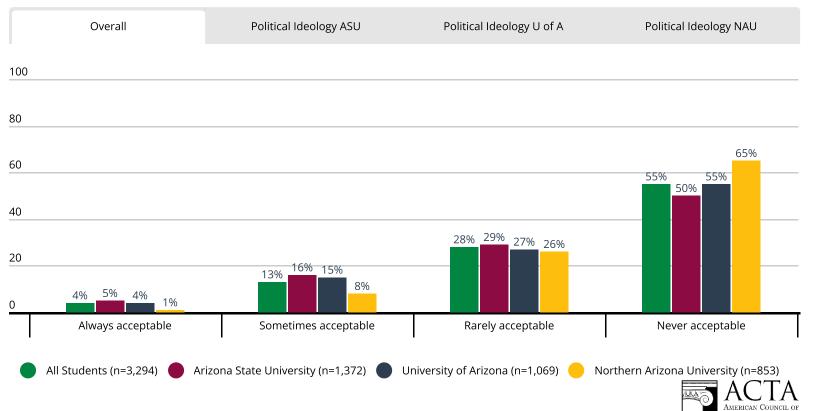
40



Q4.15_1 How acceptable would you say it is for students to engage in the following action to protest a campus speaker: Shouting down a speaker or trying to prevent 16 them from speaking on campus.

NAU students are the most likely to say that blocking others from attending a campus speech is never acceptable.

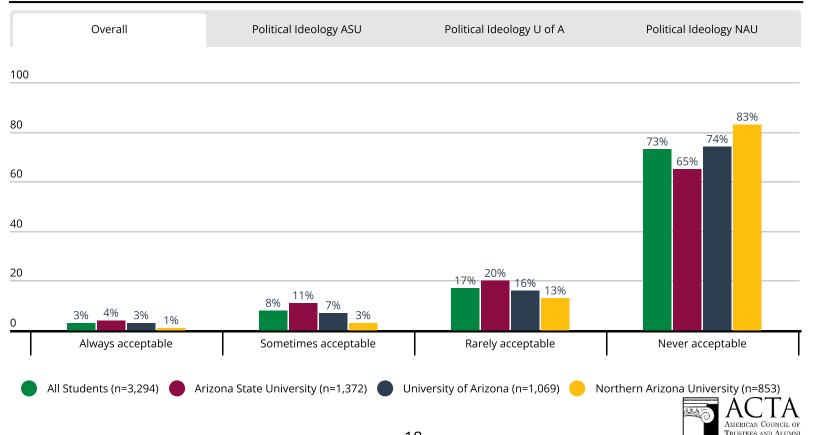
• Conservative students across the three schools are more likely than liberal students to say that blocking others from attending a campus speech is never acceptable.



TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

ASU students are the most likely to say that using violence to stop campus speech is at least sometimes acceptable.

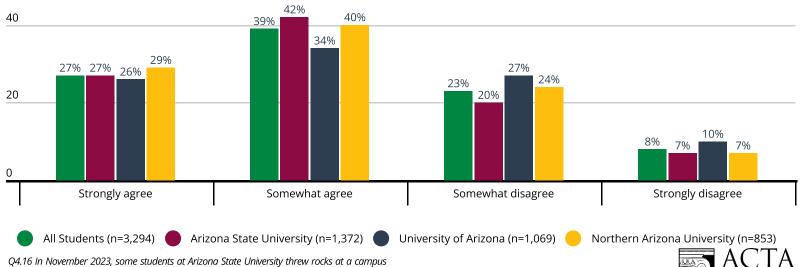
• Conservative students are more likely than liberal students across all three schools to say that using violence to stop a campus speech is never acceptable.



U of A students are the least likely to agree that students should face disciplinary consequences for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.

• Conservative students are significantly more likely than liberal students across all three schools to agree that students should face disciplinary consequences for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.





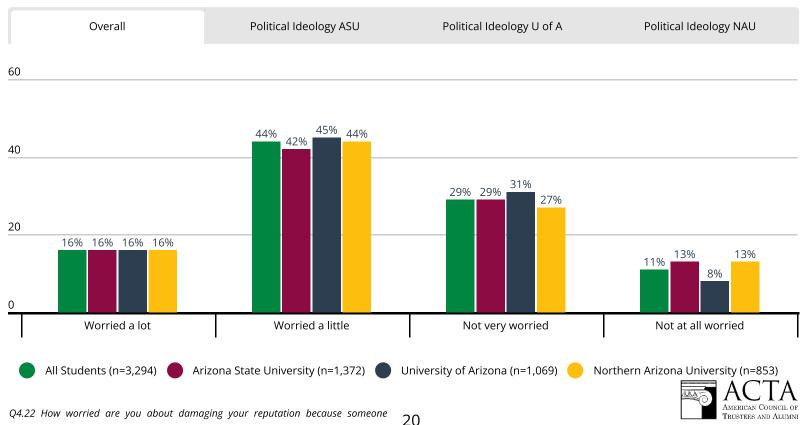
19

TRUSTEES AND ALUMN

building window in order to disrupt a Students at virtual state onlying since virtuals at a campus with the following statement? Students should face disciplinary consequences for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.

Sixty percent of students across all three schools are worried that their reputations will be damaged if someone misunderstands something they have said or done.

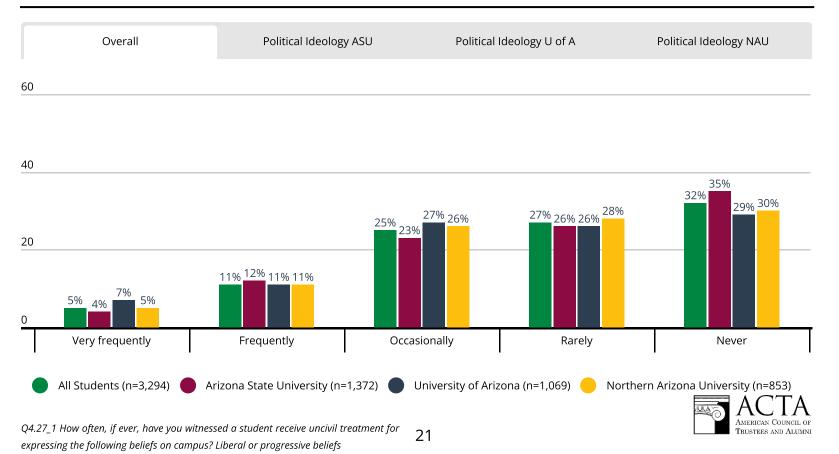
• Conservative students are more likely than liberal students at ASU and U of A to be very worried that their reputations will be damaged if someone misunderstands something they have said or done.



misunderstands something you have said or done?

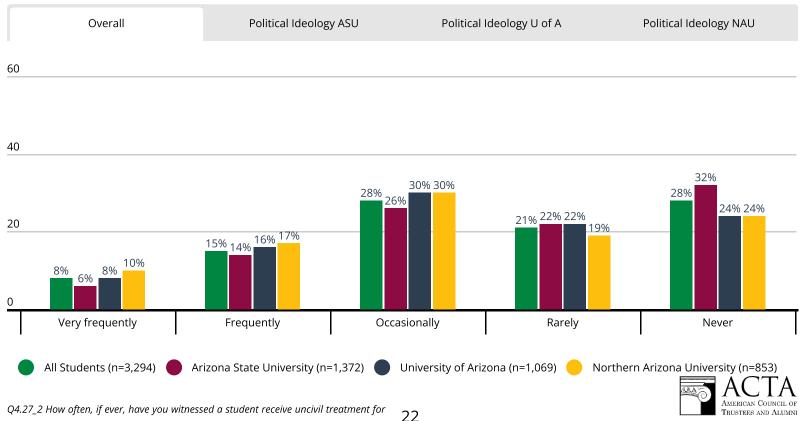
Roughly one-third of all Arizona students have never witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing liberal or progressive beliefs.

• Liberal students at ASU and U of A (but not NAU) are more likely than conservative students to have frequently witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing liberal or progressive beliefs on campus.



ASU students are the most likely to have never witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing conservative beliefs on campus.

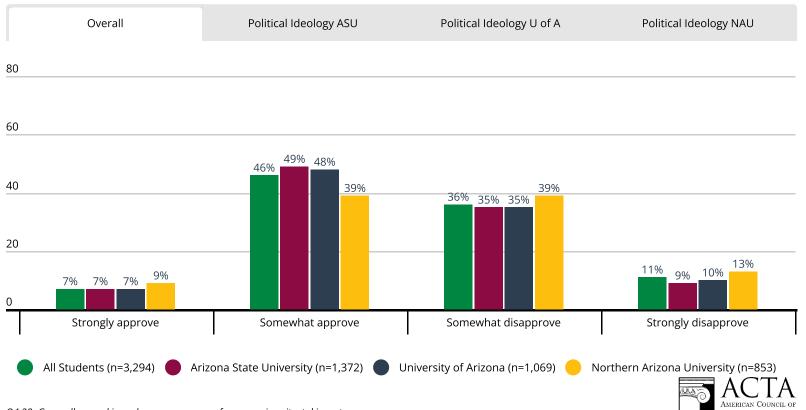
• Conservative students across all three Arizona schools are significantly more likely than liberal students to have frequently witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing conservative beliefs.



expressing the following beliefs on campus? Conservative beliefs

More than half of students across the three schools approve of their university taking stances on political and moral issues, whether controversial or not.

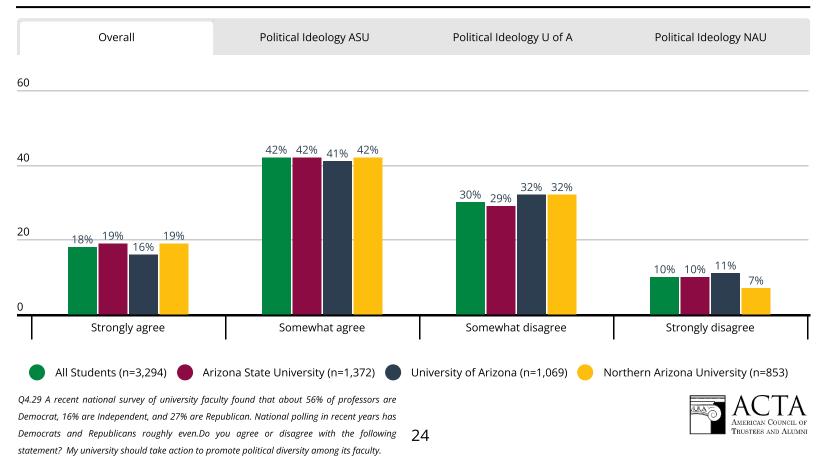
• Liberal students are more likely than conservative students across all Arizona campuses to approve of their university taking stances on political and moral issues, whether controversial or not.



Q4.28 Generally speaking, do you approve of your university taking stances on political and moral issues, whether controversial or not?

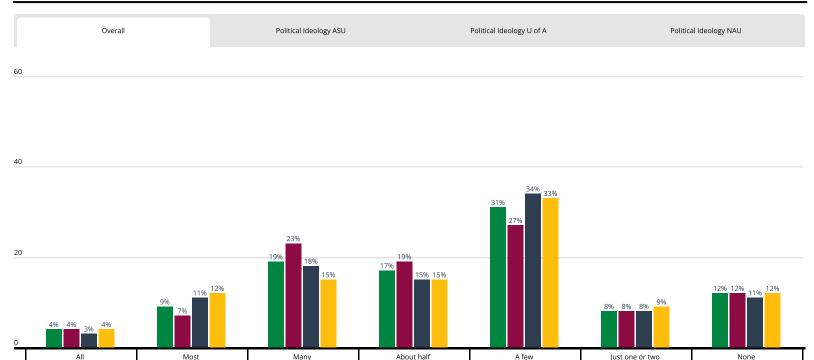
Sixty percent of students agree their university should take action to promote political diversity among its faculty.

• Conservative students are more likely than liberal students at NAU and U of A to strongly agree that their university should promote political diversity among its faculty.



Half the students across the three Arizona schools say about half or more of their friends on campus have a different political ideology.

• Liberal students at U of A and NAU are more likely than conservative students to say that none of their friends on campus adhere to a different political ideology.



🔵 All Students (n=3,294) 🛛 🔵 Arizona State University (n=1,372) 🌑 University of Arizona (n=1,069) 🥚 Northern Arizona University (n=853)



Q4.19 How many friends on campus do you have who adhere to a different political ideology?

Survey Topline

Q4.1_1 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? *Publicly disagreeing with a professor about a controversial topic.*

16% Very comfortable27% Somewhat comfortable37% Somewhat uncomfortable20% Very uncomfortable

Q4.1_2 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? *Expressing disagreement with one of your professors about a controversial topic in a written assignment.*

23% Very comfortable 28% Somewhat comfortable 27% Somewhat uncomfortable 12% Very uncomfortable

Q4.1_3 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? *Expressing your views on a controversial political topic during an in-class discussion.*

19% Very comfortable36% Somewhat comfortable29% Somewhat uncomfortable15% Very uncomfortable

Q4.1_4 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? *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.*

24% Very comfortable 38% Somewhat comfortable 25% Somewhat uncomfortable 13% Very uncomfortable

Q4.1_5 On the following scale, how comfortable would you feel doing the following on your campus? *Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on a social media account tied to your name.*

19% Very comfortable27% Somewhat comfortable32% Somewhat uncomfortable22% Very uncomfortable

Q4.2 How welcoming is your campus for students who hold unpopular political opinions?

21% Very welcoming51% Somewhat welcoming22% Somewhat unwelcoming6% Very unwelcoming

Q4.3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In general, the political climate these days prevents me from saying things I believe because others might find them offensive.

18% Strongly agree42% Somewhat agree19% Somewhat disagree12% Strongly disagree9% Don't know

Q4.4 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?

9% Very often20% Fairly often31% Occasionally29% Rarely12% Never

Q4.5 How often have you not spoken up on campus because you thought your opinion would be unwelcome?

6% Weekly15% Several times a month21% Once a month28% Less than once a month30% Never

Q4.6 When you do not speak up, whose response are you worried about? Select up to 7 options.

54% Professors
58% Classmates
32% Close friends
51% Student community at large
11% Residence life staff
38% University administration
2% Other

Q4.7 If a controversy over offensive speech were to occur on your campus, how likely is it that the administration would defend the speaker's right to express their views?

9% Extremely likely
22% Very likely
36% Somewhat likely
15% Not very likely
5% Not at all likely
13% Not sure

Q4.8 Have you received training from staff or faculty at your college on free expression policies?

17% Yes 83% No

Q4.9 In which of the following scenarios did you receive training? Select up to 6 options.

42% Orientation

42% Online module from Dean of Students/Student Services Office 17% Mandatory in-person event 31% Required class

22% Residential Life

7% Other

Q4.10 If you had to choose, it is more important for colleges:

- 39% To prohibit offensive speech on campus that is biased against certain groups
- 61% To expose students to all types of viewpoints; even if they are offensive or biased against certain groups

Q4.11 How often do your professors promote their own political views in the classroom?

3% Very frequently
12% Frequently
30% Occasionally
28% Rarely
15% Very rarely
12% Never

Q4.12 If a professor says something that students find offensive, should that professor (or class instructor) be reported to the university?

Q4.13_1 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "It is clear that Affirmative Action is doing more harm than good, and should be eliminated."

24% Should be reported 35% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_2 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "If you look at the data, there is no evidence of anti-black bias in police shootings."

32% Should be reported 27% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_3 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "Owning a gun is the right of every U.S. citizen."

11% Should be reported 48% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_4 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "Biological sex is a scientific fact. There are two sexes, male and female."

23% Should be reported 36% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_5 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "Requiring vaccination for COVID is an assault on individual freedom."

27% Should be reported 32% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_6 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "Those who want to eliminate Affirmative Action are perpetuating white privilege."

23% Should be reported 35% Should not be reported 41% Other Q4.13_7 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "It is clear that we have a problem with racist police in the U.S. shooting unarmed black men."

15% Should be reported 43% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_8 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "A civilized society doesn't need guns."

11% Should be reported 48% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_9 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "There are a wide variety of sexes. Sex is not binary."

10% Should be reported 48% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.13_10 Please review the following statements and indicate whether you believe a professor (or class instructor) should be reported for making each statement. "Not getting vaccinated for COVID is irresponsible and inconsiderate to others."

17% Should be reported 42% Should not be reported 41% Other

Q4.14_1 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 promotes the following idea? *Israel is a genocidal, apartheid state which harms non-Jewish residents.*

23% Definitely should allow this speaker 37% Probably should allow this this speaker 27% Probably should not allow this speaker 13% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.14_2 Should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who promotes the following idea? *Transgender women are not women in the same way that biological women are.*

18% Definitely should allow this speaker30% Probably should allow this this speaker30% Probably should not allow this speaker22% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.14_3 Should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who promotes the following idea? *Abortion should be illegal under all circumstances.* 15% Definitely should allow this speaker 28% Probably should allow this this speaker 28% Probably should not allow this speaker 29% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.14_4 Should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who promotes the following idea? *Policing in America is systematically racist.*

28% Definitely should allow this speaker45% Probably should allow this this speaker20% Probably should not allow this speaker7% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.14_5 Should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who promotes the following idea? *Capitalism should be replaced with socialism*.

21% Definitely should allow this speaker45% Probably should allow this this speaker25% Probably should not allow this speaker9% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.14_6 Should your school ALLOW or NOT ALLOW a speaker on campus who promotes the following idea? *Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practices do more harm than good.*

17% Definitely should allow this speaker36% Probably should allow this this speaker28% Probably should not allow this speaker19% Definitely should not allow this speaker

Q4.15_1 How acceptable would you say it is for students to engage in the following action to protest a campus speaker: Shouting down a speaker or trying to prevent them from speaking on campus.

8% Always acceptable28% Sometimes acceptable34% Rarely acceptable30% Never acceptable

Q4.15_2 How acceptable would you say it is for students to engage in the following action to protest a campus speaker: Blocking other students from attending a campus speech.

4% Always acceptable14% Sometimes acceptable28% Rarely acceptable55% Never acceptable

Q4.15_3 How acceptable would you say it is for students to engage in the following action to protest a campus speaker: Using violence to stop a campus speech.

3% Always acceptable8% Sometimes acceptable17% Rarely acceptable72% Never acceptable

Q4.16 In November 2023, some students at Arizona State University threw rocks at a campus building window in order to disrupt a Student Government meeting. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Students should face disciplinary consequences for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.*

27% Strongly agree
39% Somewhat agree
23% Somewhat disagree
8% Strongly disagree
3% NA

Q4.17 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Students should face disciplinary consequences for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.*

0% Strongly agree0% Somewhat agree0% Somewhat disagree0% Strongly disagree99% NA

Q4.18 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *My university* should discipline students who deliberately disrupt classes or events to prevent the voicing of views with which they disagree.

30% Strongly agree 44% Somewhat agree 20% Somewhat disagree 6% Strongly disagree

Q4.19 How many friends on campus do you have who adhere to a different political ideology?

4% All

10% Most 19% Many 17% About half 31% A few 8% Just one or two 12% None

Q4.20 Have you lost friends on campus because of your political beliefs?

22% Yes 78% No

- Q4.21 Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own view?
- 62% People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions in public; even those that are deeply offensive to other people.
- 38% Government should prevent people from engaging in hate speech against certain groups in public.

Q4.22 How worried are you about damaging your reputation because someone misunderstands something you have said or done?

16% Worried a lot44% Worried a little29% Not very worried11% Not at all worried

Q4.23 Have you been socially excluded due to any of the following actions? Select all that apply.

14% Sharing your political or social views

9% Having joined or been a member of a student or community organization

11% Posting on social media

7% Attending an on-campus speaking event, protest, demonstration, or rally 73% None of the above

Q4.24 How often have you been socially excluded?

2% Very frequently

- 4% Frequently
- 12% Occasionally
- 9% Rarely
- 1% Never
- 73% Other

Q4.25 Have you experienced threats or harassment from fellow students due to any of the following actions? Select up to 4 options.

10% Sharing your political or social views

- 7% Having joined or been a member of a student or community organization
- 7% Posting on social media or on your door
- 8% Attending an on-campus speaking event, protest, demonstration, or rally
- 78% None of the above

Q4.26 How often have you experienced threats or harassment from fellow students?

1% Very frequently

4% Frequently

7% Occasionally

8% Rarely

2% Never

78% NA

Q4.27_1 How often, if ever, have you witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing the following beliefs on campus? Liberal or progressive beliefs

5% Very frequently11% Frequently25% Occasionally27% Rarely32% Never

Q4.27_2 How often, if ever, have you witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing the following beliefs on campus? *Conservative beliefs*

8% Very frequently15% Frequently28% Occasionally21% Rarely28% Never

Q4.27_3 How often, if ever, have you witnessed a student receive uncivil treatment for expressing the following beliefs on campus? *Religious beliefs*

6% Very frequently13% Frequently27% Occasionally23% Rarely30% Never

Q4.28 Generally speaking, do you approve of your university taking stances on political and moral issues, whether controversial or not?

7% Strongly approve46% Somewhat approve36% Somewhat disapprove11% Strongly disapprove

Q4.29 A recent national survey of university faculty found that about 56% of professors are Democrat, 16% are Independent, and 27% are Republican. National polling in recent years has Democrats and Republicans roughly even. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *My university should take action to promote political diversity among its faculty.*

18% Strongly agree42% Somewhat agree31% Somewhat disagree10% Strongly disagree

Q4.30 How often have you been treated unfairly on campus by professors, teaching fellows, or administrators as a result of your political opinions and beliefs?

2% Frequently13% Sometimes22% Rarely62% Never

Q5.1 Does the First Amendment allow your university to ban hate speech on campus?

23% Yes 27% No 50% Not sure

Q6.1 I would feel freer to discuss controversial topics on campus if... Select up to 6 options.

35% There were more student groups dedicated to fostering wideranging debate and discussion

27% There was greater viewpoint diversity among faculty members

- 32% First year orientation included more discussion about the importance of free expression on campus
- 29% My university hosted a broader diversity of guest speakers
- 33% Senior administrators (presidents; provosts; deans; and department chairs) did more to encourage a free speech culture
- 18% My university reformed existing policies that discourage free and open discussion
- 25% I already feel free to discuss controversial topics on campus
- 17% None of the above

Q6.2 What do you believe is the most effective change to improve the campus climate?

- 20% There were more student groups dedicated to fostering wideranging debate and discussion13% There was greater viewpoint diversity among faculty members
- 14% First year orientation included more discussion about the importance of free expression on campus
- 13% My university hosted a broader diversity of guest speakers
- 16% Senior administrators (presidents; provosts; deans; and department chairs) did more to encourage a free speech culture
- 11% My university reformed existing policies that discourage free and open discussion

14% Something else

Q6.3 If you could suggest one other reform to senior university leaders to foster freer deliberation on campus, what would it be?

Open text response



methodology@collegepulse.com <u>www.collegepulse.com</u>