

## UW STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT FREE SPEECH RIGHTS, VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY, AND SELF-CENSORSHIP

### **SECTION 1: THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

In this first section of the survey, we are interested in your understanding of your First Amendment free speech rights.

Consider each of the following circumstances. Please indicate whether you interpret each one as a violation of the student's First Amendment free speech rights.

|  | This is a violation of the student's rights | This is <i>not</i> a violation of the student's rights | I'm not sure |
|--|---|--|--------------|
| The residence hall supervisor removes a political sign from a student's dorm room door                         |   |  |              |
| Tik Tok suspends a student's account because the student posted an anti-vaxx video                             |   |  |              |
| The university administration prohibits student protestors from blocking access to certain buildings on campus |   |  |              |
| Campus housing limits which movies students can watch in the privacy of their dorm room                        |   |  |              |
| A student's private employer says the student cannot hand out flyers about their campus organization at work   |   |  |              |

Consider each of the following behaviors. Please indicate whether you interpret each behavior as protected by the student's First Amendment free speech rights.

|   | This behavior is protected | This behavior is <i>not</i> protected | I'm not sure |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| A student distributes pro-Nazi leaflets on a street corner near the university  |                            |                                       |              |
| A student threatens another student with immediate violence based on their beliefs  |                            |                                       |              |
| A professor criticizes an elected official on the professor's personal Twitter feed                                       |                            |                                       |              |
| A student mocks another student for their choice of clothes   |                            |                                       |              |
| A student accuses a university administrator of taking bribes on Instagram when the student knows the accusation is false |                            |                                       |              |

In classes at your university, how much have you learned about your First Amendment free speech rights?

- Not at all      A little      Some      Quite a bit      A lot

How would you describe the number of extracurricular opportunities available to students on your campus to learn about their First Amendment free speech rights?

Not enough      Just the right number      Too many      I don't know

                                                                

Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  | Strongly Disagree     | Slightly Disagree     | Neutral               | Slightly Agree        | Strongly Agree        |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| My university should require First Amendment free speech training for <i>students</i> .                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My university should require First Amendment free speech training for <i>faculty and instructional staff</i> . | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My university should require First Amendment free speech training for <i>administrators</i> .                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## **SECTION 2: VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY**

In this section of the survey, we are interested in your opinions about viewpoint diversity.

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

|   | Strongly Disagree     | Slightly Disagree     | Neutral               | Slightly Agree        | Strongly Agree        |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| People should be allowed to say hateful things.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am tolerant of other people's views, but only if those views are not offensive.                       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| People are trying to be hurtful when they express offensive opinions.                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions, even those that are deeply offensive to others. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It would be hard to ban hate speech because people can't agree which speech is hateful.                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| When evaluating the things people say, it is important to consider the intentions behind their words.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hate speech is an act of violence.  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| When thinking about an issue, I consider as many different views and opinions as possible.              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Student groups often invite speakers to campus to express their views on a range of topics. If some students perceive a speaker's message as offensive or biased against certain groups of people, do you think university administrators should disinvite the speaker?**

- Yes, they should disinvite the speaker  
 No, they should not disinvite the speaker  
 I have no opinion

**If some students perceive a speaker's message as offensive or biased against certain groups of people, how do you think the students should deal with the situation? *Check any that apply.***

- Ignore the speaker/Don't attend the presentation  
 Contact the event organizers to express concerns about the speaker's message  
 Protest outside the event  
 Attend the presentation and ask challenging questions  
 Attend the presentation to ridicule the speaker  
 Attend the presentation to make noise so the speaker cannot be heard  
 Attend the presentation to physically force the speaker from the stage

Please respond to the following questions about offensive ideas.

|  | Definitely<br>No      | Probably<br>No        | I'm<br>Neutral        | Probably<br>Yes       | Definitely<br>Yes     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| If a required reading for a college class includes content that students find offensive, should the professor drop the reading as a requirement? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| If a topic being discussed in a college class includes perspectives that students find offensive, should the class stop discussing the topic?    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| If a professor says something that students find offensive, should the students report the professor to the university?                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| If a student says something in class that other students find offensive, should they report that student to the university?                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If you had to choose one of the options below, which do you think it is more important for colleges to do?

- Protect students by prohibiting speech they may find offensive
- Allow students to be exposed to all types of speech even if they may find it offensive or biased

### **SECTION 3: PERCEPTIONS OF CAMPUS CLIMATE**

**In this section of the survey, we are interested in your perceptions of the atmosphere in your classes and on your campus toward engaging with diverse viewpoints.**

|   | Never                 | Rarely                | Sometimes             | Often                 | Very Often            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| How often do your professors encourage students to explore a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| How often do your professors create a classroom climate in which people with unpopular views would feel comfortable sharing their opinions?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| How often do your professors promote their own political views in the classroom?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <p><i>If student responds with something other than "Never," then follow up:</i><br/>           Please explain the circumstance(s) in which you feel your professors have promoted their own political views.<br/>           (Text box)</p> |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |

**Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.**

|  | Strongly Disagree     | Slightly Disagree     | Neutral               | Slightly Agree        | Strongly Agree        |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| On my campus, students are genuinely interested in discussing controversial ideas.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| On my campus, we are encouraged to watch what we say in case other people might be offended.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| On my campus, it is better to keep quiet than to speak out with an opinion that other people don't share.                                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| On my campus, people share their opinions only around friends or other people they trust.  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| On my campus, if a controversy over offensive speech occurred, the administration would defend the speaker's right to express their views. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

#### **SECTION 4: SELF-CENSORSHIP AND COMPELLED SPEECH**

In this section of the survey, we are interested in whether you have self-censored in class and, if so, why.

**How often have you wanted to speak up in class about a controversial issue, but decided not to?**

Never                  Rarely                  Sometimes                  Often                  Very often  
                                                                       

*If student responds rarely/sometimes/often/very often, then follow up:*

Please explain one or more circumstances in which you wanted to speak up and why you decided not to.  
 (Text box)

**Think about the times you have NOT spoken up in class about a controversial issue. Why have you not spoken up? Check any that apply.**

- 
- I felt that I was in the class to learn from the instructor, not debate opinions
- 
- I generally don't speak up in class, regardless of the issue
- 
- I really didn't care that much about the issue
- 
- I felt like I didn't know enough about the issue to speak up about it
- 
- I felt that others in the room didn't really want to understand other students' views
- 
- I did not want to jeopardize how other students in the class view me
- 
- I didn't want other students in the room to feel like I was attacking them
- 
- I was in a class that did not encourage discussion or debate
- 
- I was worried other students would criticize my views as offensive
- 
- I was worried the professor would say my views are wrong or offensive
- 
- I was worried the professor would give me a lower grade because of my views
- 
- I was worried someone would post a critical comment about my views on social media
- 
- I was worried someone would file a complaint claiming my views violated a campus harassment policy
- 
- I was worried I would cause others psychological harm
- 
- I wanted to leave space for members of historically marginalized groups to speak
-

**How often have you ever felt pressured, in class, to agree with a specific opinion or attitude being expressed by the professor or other students in the class?**

Never

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Very often

*If student responds with anything other than "Never," then follow up:* Please explain one or more circumstances in which you felt pressured to agree with a specific opinion or attitude being expressed by the professor or other students in the class.

(Text box)

## **SECTION 5: FREE EXPRESSION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

In this section of the survey, we are interested in how you feel about engaging in various “free expression” behaviors, and any consequences you may have experienced from engaging in such behaviors.

How would you feel engaging in each of the following behaviors?

|   | Very<br>uncomfortable | Somewhat<br>Uncomfortable | Neutral               | Somewhat<br>Comfortable | Very<br>comfortable   |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Disagreeing aloud with one of your professors about a controversial topic   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Disagreeing in writing (e.g., on a written assignment) with one of your professors about a controversial topic  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic during an in-class discussion  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space, such as a quad, dining hall, or lounge | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on social media   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students while off campus, such as at a restaurant or gathering  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views on classroom markerboards  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views with chalk on campus sidewalks   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hanging papers with your political/social/religious views on residence hall doors   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Distributing across campus papers or leaflets with your political/social/religious views on them  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views by assembling or protesting with others in the center of campus                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |



**Have you engaged in any of the following behaviors? Check any that apply.**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Disagreed aloud with one of your professors about a controversial topic  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagreed in writing (e.g., on a written assignment) with one of your professors about a controversial topic   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed your views on a controversial topic during an in-class discussion  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed your views on a controversial topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space, such as a quad, dining hall, or lounge | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on social media   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed an unpopular opinion to your fellow students while off campus, such as at a restaurant or gathering  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed your political/social/religious views on classroom markerboards  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed your political/social/religious views with chalk on campus sidewalks   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hung papers with your political/social/religious views on residence hall doors   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Distributed across campus papers or leaflets with your political/social/religious views on them  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressed your political/social/religious views by assembling or protesting with others in the center of campus                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Have you experienced negative social consequences for any of the following behaviors? Check any behavior for which you have experienced negative social consequences.**

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Disagreeing aloud with one of your professors about a controversial topic   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagreeing in writing (e.g., on a written assignment) with one of your professors about a controversial topic  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic during an in-class discussion  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space, such as a quad, dining hall, or lounge | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on social media   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students while off campus, such as at a restaurant or gathering  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views on classroom markerboards  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views with chalk on campus sidewalks   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hanging papers with your political/social/religious views on residence hall doors   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Distributing across campus papers or leaflets with your political/social/religious views on them  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views by assembling or protesting with others in the center of campus                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Have you experienced negative academic consequences (such as getting a lower grade or being reported, suspended, or expelled) for any of the following behaviors? Check any behavior for which you have experienced negative academic consequences.**

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Disagreeing aloud with one of your professors about a controversial topic   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagreeing in writing (e.g., on a written assignment) with one of your professors about a controversial topic  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic during an in-class discussion  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your views on a controversial topic to other students during a discussion in a common campus space, such as a quad, dining hall, or lounge | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students on social media   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing an unpopular opinion to your fellow students while off campus, such as at a restaurant or gathering  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views on classroom markerboards  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views with chalk on campus sidewalks   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hanging papers with your political/social/religious views on residence hall doors   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Distributing across campus papers or leaflets with your political/social/religious views on them  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expressing your political/social/religious views by assembling or protesting with others in the center of campus                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## **SECTION 6: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**In this section, we ask you basic demographic information. We ask these questions so that we will be able to assess whether the distribution of students responding from each campus is representative of that campus' student body.**

### **Which UW System university do you attend?**

- UW-Eau Claire
- UW-Green Bay
- UW-La Crosse
- UW-Madison
- UW-Milwaukee
- UW-Oshkosh
- UW-Parkside
- UW-Platteville
- UW-River Falls
- UW-Stevens Point
- UW-Stout
- UW-Superior
- UW-Whitewater

### **What is your current year of study?**

- First year
- Second year
- Third year
- Fourth year
- Fifth year or more

### **How long have you been on this campus?**

- This is my first year on this campus
- This is my second year on this campus
- This is my third year on this campus
- This is my fourth year on this campus
- This is my fifth year or beyond on this campus

### **What is your current enrollment status?**

- Full-time student
- Part-time student
- Neither

### **Are you an international student?**

- Yes
- No

### **What is your primary academic area of study?**

- Undeclared
- Arts
- Biological science
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Health profession
- Humanities
- Mathematics/Statistics
- Religion/Theology
- Physical science
- Social science
- Something else: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your major?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How old are you?**

- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25 or older

**What is your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary/non-conforming
- Other, please self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic background? (You may choose more than one.)**

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Middle Eastern
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Other, please self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

- Straight or heterosexual
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Other, please self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you describe your religious beliefs?**

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other; please self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Generally speaking, which political party do you most identify with?**

- Democratic Party
- Green Party
- Independent Party
- Libertarian Party
- Republican Party
- Socialist Party
- Other; please self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

**Generally speaking, which political ideology do you most identify with?**

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly liberal
- Moderate, Middle-of-the-road
- Slightly conservative
- Conservative
- Very conservative
- None

**That's it! Thank you very much for your participation.**

**If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact NAME AT CONTACT INFO.**