

Interfaith, Spiritual, Religious, and Secular Campus Climate Index (INSPIRES Index)

2024 DATA SNAPSHOT

The INSPIRES Index assesses an institution's efforts to welcome students of different religious, secular, and spiritual identities. The data presented in this snapshot is based on the responses from 291 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada from 2021-2023. Star values were assigned to reflect overall welcomingness for worldview diversity as well as accomplishments in seven specific domains.

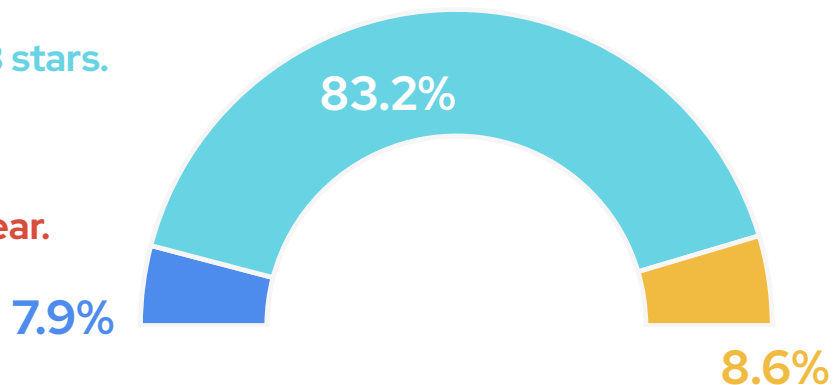
OVERALL RATING

Most institutions (242) received 2 or 3 stars.

Few institutions (23) received 1 star.

Only 25 institutions received 4 stars.

One institution received 5 stars this year.



SCORES BY INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION



Public institutions mostly received 2 and 3 stars overall.



Over 12% of **Mainline Protestant institutions** scored 4 and 5 stars overall.



Private nonsectarian institutions were the most likely to score 4 stars overall.



Catholic institutions were the least likely to score 1 or 2 stars overall.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

One institution scored 5 stars in this domain. Only two Catholic and two mainline Protestant institutions scored 4 stars in this domain. Private nonsectarian institutions were the most likely to score above 3 stars.



Less than half (46%) of campuses have dietary accommodations available in at least some of the dining facilities but only 30% indicated that these options are available at every dining hall.

Only 20% of campuses indicated accommodating all their dining facilities around fasting times. About 30% of institutions indicated having kitchens in residence halls.

Takeaway: *Many campuses need to work on accommodating students' dietary needs. Access to food is fundamental to students' well-being, and religiously minoritized students on campus lack support in this area according to INSPIRES data.*



The majority (73%) of campuses require students to approach faculty directly for academic accommodations. However, granting accommodations is required at only 33% of campuses (and encouraged at 60%).

Approximately 8% of institutions require the inclusion of religious accommodations on course syllabi, but 46% encourage the inclusion of that information.

Takeaway: *Religious academic accommodations are mainly left to the discretion of faculty with little direction from the institution. Uneven approaches to accommodations by faculty can create significant inequities. Class syllabi communicate welcome (or unwelcome); a statement on religious academic accommodations can go a long way in signaling welcome.*

FACULTY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT



Less than **19% of campuses train their faculty** to include religious, secular, and spiritual diversity in classroom conversations, while **44% of campuses encourage their faculty** to have these conversations.

Half of campuses neither train nor encourage faculty to include religious, secular, and spiritual diversity in classroom conversations.

Takeaway: *In the absence of training on most campuses, are faculty prepared to facilitate religious, secular, and spiritual dialogue in the classroom?*

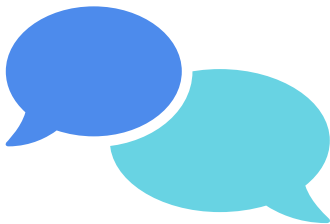
BIAS RESPONSE

Bias response teams or groups are common (at 70% of institutions). However, only **35% have specific training** to address issues of religious, spiritual, or secular bias when they arise.

Takeaway: Seven out of 10 institutions may not be prepared to address issues of religious bias such as Islamophobia and Antisemitism.



PROSELYTIZATION



Nearly **37% of all campuses** and **79% of public institutions** indicated having religious proselytization that occurs in public campus spaces by non-campus-affiliated individuals (e.g., Gideons, street preachers, etc.).

Yet 54% have policies that guide such activities on campus.

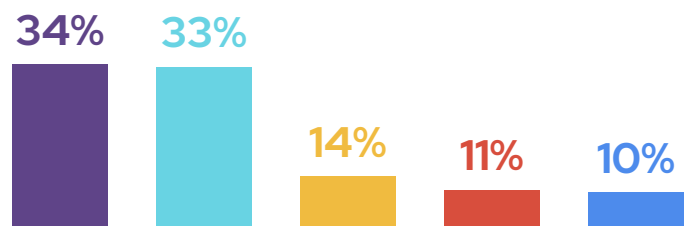
Takeaway: Campus preachers are common on campuses, but administrators may want to consider using these visitors to educate students about religious expression and free speech.

CAMPUS SERVICES AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The majority of institutions (79%) do not require students, staff, or faculty to undertake religious, secular, and spiritual diversity training.


When it comes to the various functional areas on campus, **34% of residential life** as well as **33% of mental health counselors** had RSS diversity training.

Only **14% of health center staff**, **11% of academic advisors**, and **10% of career counselors** are trained on how to support religiously-diverse students.



Takeaway: Campus services may be ill-equipped to support students from diverse religious, secular, and spiritual identities even though these students have a growing presence on campus.

INSPIRES INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



Agnes Scott College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Albertus Magnus College	Grand Valley State University	Saint Paul School of Theology	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Alvernia University	Guilford College	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
American River College	Gwynedd Mercy University	Southern Nazarene University	University of Mount Union
Amherst College	Hebrew College	St Olaf College	University of Oregon
Aurora University	John Carroll University	St. Edward's University	University of Redlands
Austin Community College District	Johns Hopkins University	St. Francis College	University of South Carolina-Columbia
Baldwin Wallace University	Kalamazoo College	St. John Fisher College	University of Southern California
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California State University-Fullerton	King's College	Susquehanna University	University of the Incarnate Word
Calvin University	La Salle University	Texas Christian University	University of Utah
Canisius College	Lafayette College	The Pennsylvania State University	University of Warwick
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College of Staten Island CUNY	Lewis University	Transylvania University	Utah Valley University
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DePauw University	Miami University-Oxford	Tufts University	Wartburg College
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Drake University	Mount Carmel College of Nursing	University of Alaska Anchorage	Westfield State University
Drake University	Mount Holyoke College	University of Dayton	Westminster College
D'Youville College	Mount Mary University	University of Houston-Victoria	Williams College
Earlham College	Newberry College	University of Kansas	Xavier University
Elon University	North Central College		
Endicott College	Ohio State University		
Furman University	Rochester Institute of Technology		
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The INSPIRES Campus Climate Index is a collaboration between Matthew J. Mayhew, Ph.D. at The Ohio State University and Alyssa Rockenbach, Ph.D. at North Carolina State University, based on data gathered through the [Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey \(IDEALS\)](#). The project is funded by the [Arthur Vining Davis Foundations](#), an organization committed to courageous multi-faith efforts.