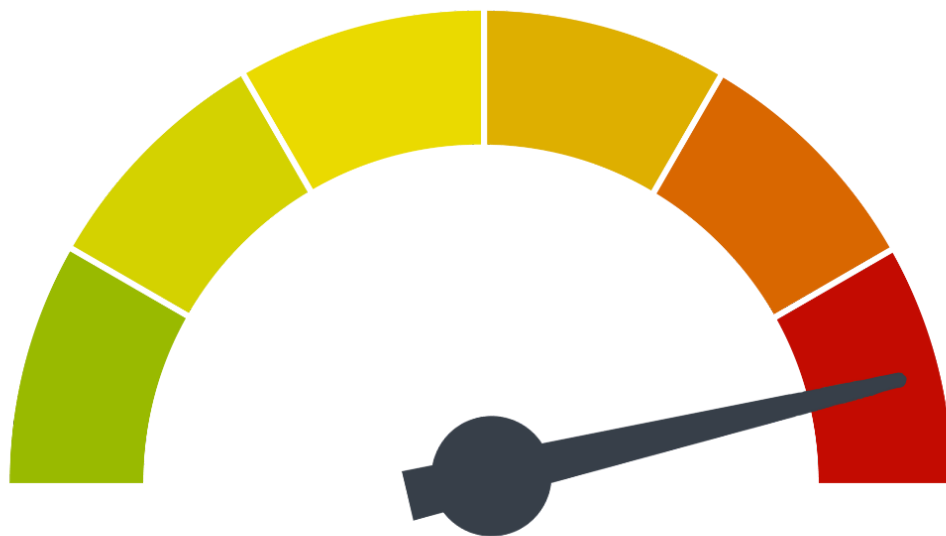




A Guide to AMCHA Initiative's Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer

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Why It's Important to Measure the Pervasiveness of Anti-Zionist Faculty

Recent efforts to provide a single score that can indicate the severity of campus antisemitism have yielded new tools for evaluating the campus climate for Jewish students. However, one crucial factor has been missing in these assessments: the pervasiveness of a school's anti-Zionist faculty. In fact, faculty might be *the* most determinative variable in this equation. This document explains why and describes the Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer,¹ a new metric developed by AMCHA Initiative to capture this missing factor and use it alongside other tools to help predict how welcoming or hostile a campus may be for its Jewish members.

While much attention has been paid to the antisemitic behavior of anti-Zionist students and student groups and the inability or unwillingness of school leaders to address it, the enormous influence of anti-Zionist faculty on campus climate is often overlooked because much of it happens away from public view, in classrooms and conference halls, at faculty and academic senate meetings, and via internal communications. Unlike students whose more public-facing behavior is limited to the few years they are enrolled at the school, or university presidents who are easily fired or forced to resign if their performance is deemed unacceptable by school trustees² or faculty,³ most anti-Zionist faculty members are tenured or tenure-track, which means they can, with impunity, incorporate anti-Zionist advocacy and activism into their professional activities for decades. Many anti-Zionist faculty also serve in administrative roles such as department chairs and deans, wielding still more influence over campus life.

Importantly, AMCHA's research has repeatedly demonstrated the significant contribution of anti-Zionist faculty – as individuals, members of academic departments, or part of an anti-Zionist faculty group -- to the incidence of behavior targeting Jewish students for harm. Our research has consistently found that the number of faculty members who publicly support an academic boycott of Israel - the academic arm of the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions

¹ <https://amchainitiative.org/azf-barometer/>

² For example, University of Pennsylvania's president Liz Magill was forced to step down from her position after one year in office because of pressure from the school's trustees and donors, while Harvard University's president Claudine Gay was forced to resign after only six months in office.

(<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/executive-leadership/2023/12/11/missteps-antisemitism-prompt-penns-president-resign> and <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/executive-leadership/2024/01/02/harvard-president-resigns-amid-controversy>).

³ For example, the presidents of Columbia University and Brandeis University both chose to step down from their positions after their school's faculty passed votes of no-confidence in their leadership (<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/16/columbia-university-faculty-pass-vote-of-no-confidence-in-president-00158393> and <https://www.boston.com/news/education/2024/09/25/brandeis-university-president-resigns-following-facultys-vote-of-no-confidence/>).

(BDS) movement – is strongly correlated with the incidence of antisemitic assault, harassment and vandalism at their schools.⁴

Our studies have also demonstrated that anti-Zionist faculty are likely to inject their anti-Israel advocacy and activism into their classrooms,⁵ conference halls,⁶ and departmental communications,⁷ and that such faculty behavior, in turn, is likely to incite increased student anti-Zionist expression and activity, and to foment antisemitism.

Finally, a recent AMCHA study⁸ found that over and above the contribution of individual anti-Zionist faculty to incidents that target Jewish students for harm, faculty members' association with each other as part of the anti-Zionist group Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) played a pivotal role in the surge in violent campus antisemitism in the wake of Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023. Dozens of FJP chapters were established after the Hamas attack in response to a call⁹ from the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, for the express purpose of promoting the academic boycott of Israel, or academic BDS, on their campuses. Many of these FJP chapters not only hosted virulently anti-Israel events and authored anti-Zionist statements, they often collaborated in these endeavors with anti-Zionist student groups and academic departments at their schools.

In fact, AMCHA's researchers found FJP's presence on college campuses:

- Increased by more than seven times “the likelihood of physical assaults on Jewish students;”
- Increased by over three times the chance that a Jewish student would be subject to threats of violence and death and
- Prolonged the duration of encampment protests, which were likely to last over four and half times longer on campuses where FJP faculty were free to influence and provide logistic and material support to students.

In addition, professors at FJP schools spent 9.5 more days involved in protests than those at non-FJP schools, and academic boycott calls were nearly 11 times more likely in student demands.

⁴ See: “Report on Antisemitic Activity in 2015 at U.S. Colleges and Universities with the Largest Jewish Undergraduate Populations” (<https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Antisemitic-Activity-at-U.S.-Colleges-and-Universities-with-Jewish-Populations-2015-Full-Report.pdf>); Faculty Academic Boycotters: Ground Zero for Campus Antisemitism” (<https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Faculty-Academic-Boycotters-Antisemitism-Report.pdf>); and “Academic Extremism: How a Faculty Network Fuels Campus Unrest and Antisemitic Violence” (https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Academic-Extremism-Report_Sept2024.pdf).

⁵ <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Syllabus-Study-Report.pdf>

⁶ <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Faculty-Report.pdf>

⁷ <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Faculty-Academic-Boycotters-Antisemitism-Report.pdf>

⁸ https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Academic-Extremism-Report_Sept2024.pdf

⁹ <https://usacbi.org/faculty-for-justice-in-palestine/#:~:text=USACBI%20has%20issued%20a%20call%20to%20form%20Faculty,actions%2C%20and%20engag,e%20in%20Palestine%20solidarity%20work%20generally>

Given the outsized influence wielded by faculty and the clear contribution of anti-Zionist faculty to the incidence of campus antisemitism, we endeavored to create a single measure that could quantify the presence and activity of these faculty in order to better understand and address their considerable impact on campus life.

Four Measures Combine to Create the Anti-Zionist Faculty (AZF)

Based on our research, we isolated four objective measures of the pervasiveness of anti-Zionist faculty that, while interdependent, are each uniquely predictive of campus antisemitism:

Measure 1: The number of faculty who have expressed public support for academic BDS, as determined by a faculty member's endorsement of one or more public statements or petitions in support of an academic boycott of Israel

Measure 2: The presence of any academic departments that have issued at least one statement committing the department to an anti-Zionist stance

Measure 3: The presence of a Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP)-affiliated faculty group

Measure 4: The total number of events sponsored and statements authored by the school's FJP-affiliated chapter

The data for these measures can be found in these AMCHA Initiative databases:

i) Faculty Academic Boycotters;¹⁰ ii) Anti-Zionist Campus Groups;¹¹ and iii) Antisemitic Incident Tracker¹²

In creating the Anti-Zionist Faculty (AZF) Barometer, the four measures above are assigned equal weight and combined to create a single ranking between 0 and 5 for each of the colleges and universities in AMCHA's database.

The scores can be characterized as follows:

¹⁰ <https://amchainitiative.org/faculty-academic-BDS/#faculty-academic-boycotters/display-by-name/>

¹¹ <https://amchainitiative.org/sjp-chapters> - If FJP chapters exist, they are included in the list of a campus' anti-Zionist groups along with available information about the FJP chapter's website and social media presence, which can then be used to investigate the group's events and statements.

¹² <https://amchainitiative.org/search-by-incident#incident/display-by-date/>

Negligible (0)

(Little to no anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

Minimal (1)

(Minimal anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

Moderate (2)

(Moderate anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

Significant (3)

(Significant anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

Severe (4)

(High anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

Extreme (5)

(Critical level of anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found)

See Appendix for further details on how the rankings were created.

Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer Results for 2024

For this year's rankings, the data for Measures 1 through 4 included:

1. Faculty academic boycotter data through **October 31, 2024**.
2. Departmental anti-Zionist statements through **October 31, 2024**.
3. Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) chapter presence through **October 31, 2024**.
4. FJP events and statements data from **October 7, 2023, to June 30, 2024**.

In total, 725 colleges and universities were examined to determine values for the measures above and to generate the rankings for this year. (Rankings will be updated annually).

A searchable list of this year's rankings for all of the colleges and universities in AMCHA's database can be found at: <https://amchainitiative.org/azf-barometer/>

Here we focus on the 30 schools that ranked highest on the AZF Barometer, indicating a critical level of anti-Zionist faculty presence and activity. (See Table 1).

Table 1

Final unrounded scores of the 30 schools that were ranked 5 (Extreme) on the Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer and the four measures used to generate the score

School ¹³	Raw Score (pre-rounding)	# Faculty Boycotters	FJP Group Presence	# FJP Events and Statements 10/7/23 - 6/30/24	Departments with Anti-Zionist Statements ¹⁴
New York University	5.362	148	Yes	44	Yes (1)
U. of Minnesota Twin Cities	5.075	38	Yes	54	Yes (3)
Columbia U. /Barnard College	5.022	77	Yes	27	Yes (5)
UC Santa Cruz	4.972	38	Yes	40	Yes (4)
University of Washington	4.949	81	Yes	21	Yes (1)
Georgetown University	4.918	64	Yes	23	Yes (2)
UCLA	4.912	86	Yes	18	Yes (5)
CUNY The Graduate Center	4.901	60	Yes	23	Yes (1)
UC Irvine	4.886	40	Yes	30	Yes (1)
University of Hawaii Manoa	4.875	42	Yes	28	Yes (1)
University of Chicago	4.864	52	Yes	23	Yes (1)
The New School	4.855	29	Yes	35	Yes (1)
Rutgers U. New Brunswick	4.852	95	Yes	14	Yes (1)
CUNY Hunter College	4.788	39	Yes	23	Yes (1)
University of Pennsylvania	4.752	24	Yes	30	Yes (1)
CUNY College of Staten Island	4.728	31	Yes	23	Yes (1)
CUNY John Jay College	4.681	26	Yes	23	Yes (1)
UMass Amherst	4.680	31	Yes	20	Yes (1)
Northwestern University	4.677	76	Yes	10	Yes (3)
UC Santa Barbara	4.659	56	Yes	12	Yes (2)
Stanford University	4.635	30	Yes	18	Yes (1)
Yale University	4.627	37	Yes	15	Yes (2)
Rutgers University - Newark	4.624	40	Yes	14	Yes (1)
Syracuse University	4.572	30	Yes	15	Yes (1)
UC Berkeley	4.556	55	Yes	9	Yes (5)
University of Texas Austin	4.545	23	Yes	17	Yes (1)
University of Illinois at Chicago	4.531	50	Yes	9	Yes (2)
Claremont Colleges - Scripps	4.527	43	Yes	10	Yes (1)
UC Davis	4.510	54	Yes	8	Yes (6)
UC San Diego	4.500	25	Yes	14	Yes (3)

¹³ Schools in bold are found on Hillel International’s “Top 60 Colleges by Jewish Population,” which contains lists of the top 60 public and private colleges and universities as measured by Jewish student population and published in the Hillel College Guide Magazine in September, 2024. (<https://www.hillel.org/top-60-jewish-colleges/>)

¹⁴ Although for the purpose of creating the final score this is a binary measure, the parentheses indicate the number of departments that issued or endorsed an anti-Zionist statement.

It's important to note that all of the schools ranked 5 on the AZF Barometer have the following: a) FJP chapters that were active during the 2023-2024 school year, with the total number of their events and statements ranging from 8 to 54; b) one or more departments that have published or endorsed statements that identify the department as taking an anti-Zionist stance; and c) a significant number of faculty boycotters, ranging from a low of 23 to a high of 148.

We also point out that the colleges and universities ranking 5 on the barometer are both public (19) and private (11), and are found in 12 states spanning the West Coast, East Coast, Midwest and South, with concentrations in California and New York. Two-thirds (20) of the schools are on Hillel International's list of schools most popular with Jewish students.

Uses of the Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer

The Anti-Zionist Faculty (AZF) Barometer identifies and measures the presence and activity of anti-Zionist faculty on U.S. college campuses. It provides a clear, data-driven tool to highlight the prevalence of anti-Zionist faculty on a campus and help stakeholders to better understand an important determinant of campus life for Jewish students. This information can be used in variety of ways.

Students or prospective students and their families can use the AZF Barometer to help gauge how comfortable a Jewish or pro-Israel student might feel expressing his or her religious identity, beliefs or opinions in the classroom or campus square at any particular school. The barometer not only provides one important predictor of campus climate for Jewish students, it also allows the user to easily explore which faculty members may be inclined to bring their anti-Zionist sentiments into the classroom, and which academic departments have taken official stances against Israel, Zionism or Zionists. This information can help a student or prospective student decide which classes to take or which majors to pursue at a given school.

Since the AZF Barometer only focuses on anti-Zionist faculty, we recommend combining the information it provides with more general information about antisemitic activity on a campus, which can be found in one or more of AMCHA's databases,¹⁵ including its database of antisemitic incidents, anti-Zionist student groups, and student BDS activity. In addition, in order to gain a more well-rounded sense of how well a given school will suit a particular student, users of the barometer should also explore resources that highlight the positive aspects of Jewish life on campus, such as those provided by Hillel International,¹⁶ Chabad on Campus,¹⁷ and other Jewish community organizations.

¹⁵ <https://amchainitiative.org/database-search/>

¹⁶ <https://www.hillel.org/top-60-jewish-colleges/>

¹⁷ <https://chabadoncampus.org/>

The AZF Barometer can also be used by university leaders, government officials and Jewish communal organizations and members of the concerned public to better educate themselves about the significant role that anti-Zionist faculty play in the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish members of the campus community, and use this understanding to help craft policy, legislation, and advocacy campaigns to address campus antisemitism.

Recommendations to University and Government Officials and the Public

We recommend that school administrators establish robust safeguards and enforcement mechanisms to prevent faculty from using their academic positions and departmental affiliations to promote politically motivated advocacy and activism that directly targets their own students and colleagues for harm.

State and Federal legislators who are responsible for ensuring that government monies given to institutions of higher education are used for educational purposes rather than political ones - especially the implementation of academic BDS, that intentionally *subverts* the educational process - should consider establishing legislation that would withhold government funding of schools that permit faculty to engage in such behavior.¹⁸

Finally, in the absence of such actions on the part of school or government officials, advocacy organizations and members of the general public must urge these leaders to take the necessary steps to protect Jewish and pro-Israel students from the antisemitic harms of anti-Zionist faculty, or risk losing students, donors, and the public trust.

¹⁸ In September, 2023, Texas became the first state in the nation to enact a law prohibiting state-funded colleges and universities from implementing academic boycotts:
<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/analysis/html/SB01517F.htm>

Appendix

Methodology for Computing the 2024 Anti-Zionist Faculty Ranking

The anti-Zionist faculty ranking was created from the four measures of anti-Zionist faculty presence and activity in the following way:

1. Each measure was normalized so its values ranged between 0 and 1.
 - a. The presence of FJP (Measure 2) and the presence of one or more departments issuing or endorsing anti-Zionist statements (Measure 4) are both binary (with values 0 or 1) and thus already correctly normalized.
 - b. In our current databases, the number of faculty boycotters at a school (Measure 1) includes data ranging from 0 to 184 and the number of FJP events and statements during the period investigated (Measure 3) includes data ranging from 0 to 54, and in both cases the ranges are dominated by a few outlier values at the upper end of their range. We therefore converted each of the two measures to a logarithmic scale¹⁹ and divided by the largest value to obtain the range from 0 to 1.
2. The four normalized values for each school were added, multiplied by 1.375 (5.5 divided by 4) and rounded in order to generate a scale from 0 to 5. The equal weighting implied by this procedure was done for the sake of simplicity and in the absence of any reason to weight one measure more than another.

¹⁹ Without converting to a logarithmic scale, a few outlier values would mask the severity of the values that follow them.