**University of Florida Counselor Education Program Diversity Statement**

The University of Florida Counselor Education program is committed to creating an atmosphere of integrity, trust, and safety. We are a multicultural community that includes individuals of various ancestral, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds; immigration statuses; ages; gender identities; affectional orientations; physical and mental abilities; national origins; as well as individuals with varying trauma histories and life experiences. Unconditional regard for diversity is consistent with the counselor profession (American Counseling Association [ACA] Code of Ethics, 2014). As counseling professionals, we are called to “respect the diversity of clients, trainees, and research participants” (ACA, 2014, A.4.b., p.5), develop multicultural social justice counseling competencies (Ratts, Singh, Nassar-McMillan, Butler, & McCullough, 2016), and advocate for our clients as well as the counseling profession.

Our program is committed to advocating for social justice, challenging stereotypes, thoroughly processing power and privilege, and promoting self-reflection and critical thinking skills. Additionally, we expect students, faculty, supervisors, and other stakeholders, to demonstrate a genuine desire to examine their preexisting prejudices, assumptions, and biases, meeting the standards of the counseling profession and enabling each individual to work effectively and ethically with all clientele. Faculty, students, site supervisors, and other stakeholders affiliated with the UF Counselor Education Program are also committed to educating each other on the existence and effect of racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, transphobia, religious intolerance, ageism, sizeism, or any other form of discrimination.

We believe our program and its core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion are fortified when all voices are heard. Therefore, we provide space for every voice within our educational environment.

**References**

American Counseling Association. (2014). *ACA code of ethics*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Ratts, M. J., Singh, A. A., Nassar‐McMillan, S., Butler, S. K., & McCullough, J. R. (2016).

Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies: Guidelines for the counseling profession. Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development, 44, 28-48. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jmcd.12035