The Department of Educational Studies and the OSU Counselor Education Program are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the School and Program seek to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. The Department of Educational Studies prohibits discrimination against any member of the department's community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, or veteran status.

The American Counseling Association has explicit policies, standards, and ethical guidelines regarding diversity issues. In the Counselor Education program, you will be expected to reflect the standards and ethics of the counseling profession, especially in the area of diversity. Any use of written or verbal language should be consistent with the respect and tolerance that are the cornerstone of the counseling profession and should reflect the ACA Human Rights Committee's 1987 statement on tolerance, which states:

In order to guarantee that each individual is free to pursue his/her potential, each member of AACD (now ACA) is charged to (a) engage in ongoing examination of his/her own attitudes, feelings, stereotypic views, perceptions and behaviors that might have prejudicial or limiting impact on others; (b) contribute to an increased sensitivity on the part of other individuals, groups or institutions to the barriers to opportunity imposed by discrimination; (c) advocate equal rights for all individuals through concerted personal, professional, and political activity.