

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT AND REQUIREMENT**

### **Diversity Statement**

The Combined Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology and School Psychology is committed to the values of diversity and inclusivity that go beyond the goal of “non-discrimination.” In accordance with our mission which includes preparing individuals to practice ethically and competently as health service psychologists in a diverse society, we seek to develop and integrate culturally sensitive and appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills through our teaching, supervision, research, and practice. We seek to creating and maintaining a community of safety and trust that recognizes and encourages diversity including, but not limited to, differences of age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, national and regional origin, race, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status/class, and other dimensions of diversity.

### **Diversity Requirement**

Diversity and individual differences are core values for both counseling and school psychology. Hence, all students are required to attend three program-sponsored diversity-related townhalls and three program-approved, diversity-related events before they can take prelims. Townhalls are considered an active engagement within the community of the program. Training events are more didactic oriented and focused on increasing skills, awareness, and application of the topic outside of the program (e.g., practica). Attendance at “in house” events will be taken, and students are expected to attend the full event in order to get credit. Adherence to this requirement is included as a part of students’ annual evaluations. Students cannot defend their preliminary exam until this requirement is successfully completed (as determined by the major professor). This requirement does not apply to students on or have completed internship.

The program will provide one town hall and one additional diversity event each semester. Although you must attend program-sponsored town halls to fulfill the requirement, you may elect to attend diversity events outside the program-sponsored events. Outside events that offer CE credit and/or that are posted through the program Canvas site are approved and approval does not need to be sought. Events that will not be approved include conference presentations for which you are a presenter and event without a didactic portion (e.g., Greek food festival, international coffee hour). Outside events not listed through the program’s Canvas site must be approved by the Diversity Committee prior to the students’ attendance at the event by emailing Drs. Marks and Thompson, as well as cc-ing your major professor. The event must be at least 50-minutes long. Proof of event attendance (e.g., registration email, certificate for attending, PPT/handout that’s provided) will be required for all events.