

University of Virginia Communication Sciences and Disorders Program  
Statement Against Racism and Other Forms of Bias and Injustice

The core values of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program are caring, collaboration, compassion, connectedness, and community. Our commitment is to our local, national, and global communities, especially persons of color and others whose voices have not been heard and whose rights have been denied. We are listening. We hear the anguish and the justifiable anger. We stand up against racism and all types of prejudice and injustice.

We pledge to continue and to increase our efforts and contributions to:

- support and advocate for students, faculty, and staff who are at risk of being marginalized.
- learn with our students and each other about the lasting negative impacts of systemic racism and other forms of bias and how these can be prevented and countered.
- collaborate with other members of our college, the university, and the community to identify and reduce systemic bias and alleviate the impacts of past injustices at all levels.
- research and develop admissions procedures to ensure equal access to all of our programs.
- university and college initiatives to establish pathway partnerships for students of color and from other under-represented groups.

We welcome students, colleagues, and community members who wish to join us in these endeavors and/or to make other suggestions for how our department can advocate for and increase social justice in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program, EHDS department, School of Education and Human Development, UVA, Charlottesville, central Virginia, and beyond. Please share your questions, comments, and suggestions via [uva-slp@virginia.edu](mailto:uva-slp@virginia.edu) and also let us know if you would like to partner with us on these endeavors.

We thank our sister program, the [University of Vermont](#), for eloquently authoring and sharing this vision. Together, positive change is happening. Now is the time.