

## Code of Ethics: Standard 3.4

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*“The educator should not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.”*

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In the classroom, it is of the utmost importance to include *all* students in the learning process, regardless of their differences. Each student comes to class with different beliefs, backgrounds, and educational experiences. In order to ensure that all students are adequately successful, students need to be free to be themselves and their individuality without judgment. Only then can they let down their walls and put forth the energy to learn.

Students should not only feel free to express themselves and their backgrounds, but they also need to feel free to take leaps and make mistakes academically. In my classroom, I stress that there are no wrong answers. I believe that there are *answers*, and then there is the *right answer*. All answers have some levels of truth and correctness to them, and it is my job as an educator to praise the correctness of an answer, no matter how minuscule it may seem. If an answer is not entirely correct at first, offering prompting questions and hints will help lead the students the rest of the way until the right answer is obtained. My hope is that students will be comfortable sharing their different ideas and methods in order to bring different background knowledge and experiences to the classroom.

Within the walls of my classroom, bias is washed and discrimination erased; because as students enter my classroom, they are a blank canvas on which each student is awarded the same opportunity to learn. I strive to create a classroom environment where students feel comfortable participating in class because they know that learning is endlessly encouraged and new ideas are always praised and rewarded, with no regard for discrimination or judgment.