

MASPP Faculty Statement in Support of BIPOC and BLM

Black Lives Matter.

The MASPP program was founded on principles that include developing socially conscious professionals, improving the human condition, and utilizing sport & performance settings as platforms for social change. While we have made contributions at the micro level of teaching sport & performance psychology skills to many students, groups, teams, leaders, coaches, athletes, performers, high risk professionals and more with the goal of these groups and individuals then influencing their colleagues in a ripple effect manner; it is now abundantly clear that these ripples do not (quickly enough) change the systems, institutions, policies, and practices that uphold racism in our country.

We are committed to moving from a not racist position to antiracist actions.

We start every school year with Nelson Mandela's iconic speech, "[Sport has the power to change the world.](#)" Sport played a key role in healing racial hatred in South Africa after apartheid because it was designed by Nelson Mandela to do so. Without this specific engineering, we know that sport can reinforce and even strengthen racism. Frankly, MASPP has not been intentional enough in acknowledging White Privilege/Supremacy. We have not been systematic enough in supporting BIPOC students. We have taken our privilege and responsibility for granted. We have shied away from difficult conversations in misguided attempts to sustain our community and assuage our anxiety. We have failed to recognize that the MASPP community has been blind to our Whiteness in the same way the larger American culture is. We regret that we have not taken (more) action sooner.

The MASPP faculty will take action by ensuring that our teaching, supervision, and mentoring account for both the micro and the macro levels of sport & performance. In addition to our multicultural coursework, diversity immersion experiences, and other multicultural teachings, we will be intentional about opportunities for antiracist systems-level interventions and policies.

We will recruit BIPOC students and faculty and devote scholarship money to BIPOC students.

We will acknowledge that GPA and GRE scores do not account for the systemic barriers BIPOC students face and are biased measures of aptitude and achievement.

We will center BIPOC voices in our classrooms and curriculum.

We will acknowledge and examine White privilege and White supremacy.

We will make mistakes.

We will listen and learn.

We will strive for antiracism.

Together.