

Policy on Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination

Adopted by the Legislative Council, 1981; revised 1989, 1995, and 2012. Legislative Assembly reaffirmed with edits, 2017. Legislative Assembly reaffirmed with edits, 2024.

The National Communication Association (NCA)—an organization dedicated to promoting the study, criticism, research, teaching and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication—values equal opportunity, diversity, and excellence.

As an organization in the larger society, achieving diversity requires equal opportunity. NCA and the field of communication exist within, and reflect, a culture that does not provide equal opportunity for all individuals. Like the larger culture, NCA has not succeeded in achieving our goal of equal opportunity. Earlier affirmative action programs have not yet achieved their goals and should cease only when clear and convincing evidence demonstrates that all people have gained fair and equal opportunities in education, employment, and civic life. NCA supports continued efforts to eliminate discriminatory practices generally, and in higher education specifically, against persons from marginalized groups. NCA is determined to provide access to programs and services to all members without discrimination, particularly to the historically marginalized populations listed below.

Therefore, NCA commits itself to acting affirmatively to become an organization and profession in which all persons may fully participate, regardless of ability, age, color, ethnicity, gender identity, HIV status, health status, ideology, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. In this effort, NCA encourages research of communication from diverse perspectives in, and about, groups that historically have been marginalized; develops and implements plans to achieve a diverse membership; re-examines regularly NCA's organizational structure, policies, and procedures to identify and remove barriers to full participation by all members in the leadership and activities of the association; and, with full representation of the membership, formulates policies, procedures, criteria, and standards designed to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion within the association and related professions.

NCA believes that no persons should be hired for positions or given promotions they do not merit or admitted to educational institutions unless they are able to succeed there. Affirming such principles, however, does not relieve NCA, or institutions within the discipline, of the responsibility of ensuring equal opportunity and working affirmatively to achieve greater equity and inclusion within both the discipline and the association.

NCA opposes efforts to eliminate or restrict policies or actions that are designed to foster the goals of affirmative action and nondiscrimination.