

Honesty Is Imperative



Vanderbilt University has an honor code that is respected throughout the school's community. Its statement reads:

I pledge to pursue all academic endeavors with honor and integrity. I understand the principles of the Honor System, and I promise to uphold these standards by adhering to the Honor Code in order to preserve the integrity of Vanderbilt University and its individual members.

Freshmen promise to do their own academic work with integrity and to report those who do not to the student-run honor council.

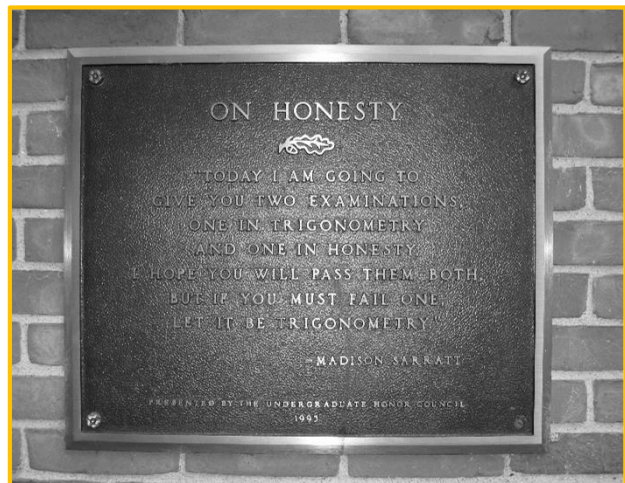
Student signatures remain on display in the lobby of the Sarratt Student Center throughout their four years at the university. Alongside the signatures is the *Statement of the Honor Code* as well as the words of the man for

whom the building is named – Madison Sarratt, longtime dean of men at Vanderbilt and a teacher in the mathematics department who died in 1978.

Sarratt wrote: “Today I am going to give you two examinations, one in trigonometry and one in honesty. I hope you will pass them both, but if you must fail one, let it be trigonometry, for there are many good (people) in this world today who cannot pass an examination in trigonometry, but there are no good (people) in the world who cannot pass an examination in honesty.”

Sarratt's former students still speak of the effect those words have had on their adult lives. And why not? Honesty is the cornerstone upon which good character is built.

Joe B. Wyatt, who served as the sixth chancellor of Vanderbilt, from 1982 to 2000, said: “Perhaps Vanderbilt's most important role in the interest of our free society is to give the world educated men and women of character, possessing fundamental integrity that affects both their thoughts and their actions.”



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Honesty is at the core of trust, and trust is defined by *Merriam-Webster* as “the belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective ... an assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.”

David Horsager was one of the keynote speakers at Life Care’s annual management meeting last September. In his book *The Trust Edge*, he wrote: “The trusted leader is followed. From the trusted sales person, people will buy. For the trusted brand, people will pay more, come back, and tell others. Trust, not money, is the currency of business and life.”

It is imperative that Life Care be trusted because of its honesty in its relationships, in its provision of health-care services, and in its business dealings.

– Beecher Hunter