

G.L. Black

Associate Provost and Dean of Students

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# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

# STUDENT HONOR CODE

## AND A ROBUST, STUDENT-DRIVEN HONOR SYSTEM

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*Vanderbilt University students pursue all endeavors with integrity. They conduct themselves honorably, professionally, and respectfully in all realms of their studies in order to promote and secure an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The keystone of our honor system is self regulation, which requires cooperation and support from each member of the university community.*

*- Statement of the Honor Code*

# STUDENT HONOR CODE

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*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.*

*- Undergraduate Honor Code Pledge*

# INCULCATING ACADEMIC VALUES

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Academic integrity is not just the absence of cheating. It is a form of collaboration by which faculty, students, and the University community together undertake the endeavors of scholarship and creative activity.

- Roles:
  - Faculty educate
  - Students act
  - Honor councils uphold

# EDUCATING STUDENTS IN GOOD ACADEMIC PRACTICE

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- Cultural, disciplinary, and temporal norms
- Content of “good practice” may vary
  - Teach the practices of your discipline
- “Responsible Conduct of Research”
- Address students with a wide range of habits and backgrounds

# STUDENTS ACT...

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- It is easier to follow the rules if you know the rules
- Most of us act ethically most of the time
- No one wants to cheat or to plagiarize, but sometimes a student does
  - Urgency, high stakes, perception of low value

# HONOR SYSTEM AT VANDERBILT

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- The student-led Honor Councils uphold the norms and values of the institution
  - Through education and outreach
  - Through review and, when necessary, sanction
- They are the central investigative and hearing bodies at Vanderbilt
- They are also a resource for the faculty

# FACULTY CHECKLIST:

## RECOMMENDED PRACTICES...

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- Put a statement of the application of the honor code on your syllabus
- Introduce your policy on the first day of class
- Remind students of your policy in week 2 and around midterms
- Build parameters/expectations into assignments for graded work
- Require a signed pledge on all graded work
- Ask students to ask questions about expectations for assignments, citation preferences, group work, etc.



# SYLLABUS STATEMENTS...

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- Sample syllabus statements:
  - “Vanderbilt’s Honor Code governs all work in this course.”
  - “All academic work at Vanderbilt is done under the Honor System.”
- Detail permissible and impermissible behaviors:
  - Students may collaborate on homework, but not...
  - Rough drafts must include proper citations...
  - You are permitted to discuss the answers to the suggested problems with other students, TAs, and faculty...
- Set your own expectations for academic propriety – and perhaps explain why you require this or that

# WHAT TO DO IF...

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If you believe a breach of the Honor System has been committed, you must either:

- *Issue a personal warning to the student*
- OR
- *Report the incident to the appropriate honor council*

NOTE: The flagrancy of the violation determines which course of action the faculty member is expected to follow. Strength of suspicion and amount of evidence are other relevant considerations.

Source: *Faculty Manual*, Chapter 9: "Honor System." Vanderbilt University

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

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- Suspected violations for cases involving undergraduate cases can be submitted online:
  - <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/honorcouncil/>
- Graduate and professional schools –
  - contact either the president/chair of the council, or your dept. chair, to determine method for reporting
- Investigations – meet with investigators
- Hearing Panels – possibly testify at hearing

# RESOURCES FOR FACULTY...

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- Resources on Process and Practice:
  - Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, & Academic Integrity
  - G.L. Black, Associate Provost and Dean of Students
  - Faculty Advisers to the Honor Council
  - Honor Council student members
  - Your dept. chair or DUS/DGS
  - Your school Associate Dean
- Educational Resources
  - The Center for Teaching
  - The Writing Studio
  - The Heard Library System