

Villanova University
M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing
Request for Applications
Research Development Grants
Spring 2026

Purpose:

This Research Development Grant Program (RDG)'s main purpose is to support the development of data needed for an external research grant application. Funded investigators are expected to publish their results and prepare a grant application to a federal agency (e.g., National Institutes of Health [NIH], Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research [AHRQ]) or to a foundation within a year after completing the funded work. Investigators previously funded by this program may apply, provided the application is on a new topic. We will fund two (2) RDGs for Spring 2026 on an investigator-initiated topic.

Eligibility:

All full-time Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) faculty members are eligible to serve as the Principal Investigator (PI; applicant). Co-Principal Investigators are permitted. For this round, priority will be given to early career faculty (individuals within the first 5 years of their initial appointment) and/or faculty who have not successfully competed for more than \$50,000 in external funding as PI since their initial appointment at the FCN. Funds cannot be used to support dissertation research.

Due Dates:

Applications must be submitted to onri@villanova.edu by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2026.**

A non-binding "Letter of Intent" of your interest to submit a grant application is appreciated **before Friday, February 13, 2026**, but is not required. Letters of Intent should be sent to the Office of Nursing Research and Innovation (onri@villanova.edu). The letter need only state the topic or provide a provisional title of the application.

Budget, Notification and Start Date:

Budgets **must not exceed \$10,000**, and budget justification must be provided for each line item. Funds may be used for any purpose that supports the research project, including salaries for research assistants or faculty. Salaries must not exceed % effort expended on the project. Resources permitting, up to two grants may be awarded. The ADRI may request that the budget, scope of work, or research design be negotiated to ensure that the RDG goals are reached.

Applicants will be notified on or about **April 24, 2026**. The earliest budget start date is **June 1, 2026**. Planning activities may begin earlier (i.e., IRB application). Funds not spent by **May 31, 2027**, may not be available unless advanced notice is provided, or the funds are needed for commitments that were made on or before the completion date.

Application Format:

The Application itself can be in PDF or Word Format; the file name must begin with the applicant's last name and brief substantive title (e.g., Rice Diabetes Control in Elderly.docx).

1. Scientific proposal: up to four single-space pages. Concise and incisive writing is the goal.

A. Background/Introduction: Describe the knowledge gap that needs to be addressed with citations from the literature and your previous work. It is acceptable to pursue a completely new research idea in which case you may not have any preliminary data. Research Development Grants are intended to provide preliminary data that will help design and conduct a future study that builds on the preliminary work. Therefore, describe how your proposed study will facilitate that future goal and how the data you collect are designed to support a future grant application.

Conclude this section by succinctly specifying the Specific Aims of this research project.

B. Methods/Research Plan: Describe all aspects of the study design: the study population, where they will be recruited, data that will be collected, measurement tools/instruments/equipment that will be used, inclusion/exclusion criteria, sample size, and statistical analysis, as appropriate. Describe potential problems and alternative strategies to address them (e.g., recruitment or analytical challenges).

C. Potential for Data to Support an External Grant Application: Provide a clear description of how this grant will provide preliminary data to support an external grant application. Include details on potential sponsors, planned timeline for submission and potential impact of the line of inquiry.

D. Facilities: Describe where the study will be conducted and facilities/equipment or other resources needed, including any arrangements made to secure collaboration(s) and study participants.

E. Human Subjects: Describe the informed consent process and IRB approvals needed to protect human subjects. Awardees must be prepared to file an IRB application as soon as possible after the award.

F. Proposed timeline: Provide a timeline for your study, including at least the following time points: completing the protocol for submission to the IRB, recruitment of study participants, data collection from first and last participant, data analysis, and preparation of a manuscript for publication. Preparation of the manuscript for publication can be beyond the period allowed for financial support.

2. Budget and budget justification: one page

Provide an itemized budget and justification for the following:

Personnel (e.g., PI salary support, research assistants, data management and/or analysis).

Supplies (office supplies, communication)

Equipment (including royalties for copyrighted tests and measures)

Other expenses (e.g., travel including attendance at conferences for research dissemination, participant compensation or parking fees)

3. References: no page restrictions.

4. Biographic Sketch of the PI: up to five pages describing experience relevant to the project. If you do not already have a biosketch, please create one using the SciENCv template available by clicking [here](#); an example of a completed biosketch is also available [here](#).

5. Review and Review Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed by members of the FCN Research and Innovation Advisory Committee or their representatives, avoiding conflicts of interest whenever possible. Reviews will consider:

Significance of the question
Research design and methods
Feasibility
Potential for data to support an external grant application

6. Resubmissions are allowed for future consideration:

A faculty member may serve as Principal Investigator only on one application but may participate on any number of research teams. The funded investigator(s) agree to present their study design at an ONRI Brown Bag and to present their results at an FCN research seminar (e.g., the Annual Research Symposium). Any unexpended funds will revert to the FCN.

Acknowledgements: All presentations and publications based on funded work **MUST** acknowledge support by the Villanova University College of Nursing Research Development Grant.

Please address any questions to the Office of Nursing Research and Innovation onri@villanova.edu.