

Villanova University
M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing
Request for Applications
Nursing Innovation Challenge Grant
2026

Introduction:

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Office of Nursing Research is thrilled to renew the Nursing Innovation Challenge. This initiative is intended to foster creative solutions that address pertinent nursing issues. As a leading institution committed to nursing education and research, we are eager to support innovative ideas that enhance patient and family care, streamline workflows, and empower nursing professionals.

Objective:

This challenge encourages FCN faculty, staff, and student teams to propose novel solutions addressing current nursing and healthcare challenges. We seek ideas that can be implemented within academic, clinical, and community settings, focusing on advancing nursing education, nursing practice, or improving health outcomes for all, especially for disenfranchised populations

Eligibility:

A full-time Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) faculty member must lead every team. We encourage collaboration between faculty, staff, and students from the Villanova community. Additionally, the challenge is open to interdisciplinary collaborations within the College and University, fostering a creative exchange of ideas. The full-time FCN faculty member must be the lead PI; part-time faculty members from other colleges, staff, and students can be team members (e.g., Co-PI, consultant, research assistant). Funds cannot be used to support dissertation research

Timeline:

Application Deadline: March 13, 2026

- Winners Announcement: on or about **April 30, 2026**
- Funding Start: **June 1, 2026**
- Funding and Project End: **May 31, 2027**

Submission Guidelines:

An optional non-binding "Letter of Intent" expressing your interest in applying may be sent to onri@villanova.edu before **February 13, 2026**. The letter must only state the topic or provide a provisional application title.

Applications should be submitted to onri@villanova.edu by **March 13, 2026**. The application can be in PDF or Word Format. **The file name must begin with the applicant's last name and a brief substantive title** (e.g., Rice Anti-Hypertension Device.docx). Applications should follow the criteria below:

- A cover page should include the project title and each team member's name, role, and affiliation;
- A proposal narrative of no more than two pages, single-spaced with 0.5in margins and 11pt font
Sections should include **1).** a brief overview of the project with 2-3 stated goals, **2).** background on the topic, **3).** a description of the innovation and why it's needed, **4).** proposed methods, **5).** an evaluation plan, and **6).** a discussion of the project's ability to move nursing practice, research, and/or education forward;
- A reference list;
- A description of team members' expertise and qualifications to conduct the proposed project (no more than 1 page);
- An itemized budget and justification

Guidelines for the Budget and Justification:

An itemized budget and justification should be included (no more than one page). Budgets should not exceed \$5,000, as prizes for first, second, and third place are \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000, respectively. Funds may be used for any purpose that supports the innovation project, including device development, salaries for research assistants or faculty, and pilot testing.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Innovation and Creativity
2. Feasibility
3. Potential Impact on Nursing Education, Practice, and/or Research

Prizes and Recognition:

Winning teams will receive:

- **First Place: \$5,000 grant**, recognition on the College's website and publications, and an opportunity to present a podium presentation at the 2027 College of Nursing Annual Research Symposium.

- **Second Place: \$3,000 grant**, recognition on the College's website and publications, and an opportunity to present a poster presentation at the 2027 College of Nursing Annual Research Symposium.

- **Third Place: \$2,000 grant**, recognition on the College's website and publications, and an opportunity to present a poster presentation at the 2027 College of Nursing Annual Research Symposium.

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property:

All submitted information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. By participating, teams grant the College the right to review, evaluate, and share their ideas with grant reviewers and the Research Advisory Committee as this is needed for funding determination. Concerns about confidentiality and intellectual property can be discussed with Associate Dean Bridgette Rice. She can be contacted at nursingadri@villanova.edu.

Contact Information:

For inquiries, please email the Office of Nursing Research and Innovation: onri@villanova.edu.

Additional Information:

Teams are encouraged to explore creative and practical solutions that align with the mission of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The mission statement can be reviewed here:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/about/mission.html>.

Acknowledgements:

All presentations and publications based on funded work **MUST** acknowledge support from the Villanova University Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) Nursing Innovation Challenge.