

Innovation Funding at Vanderbilt



Innovation Catalyst Fund

Provides outcome-oriented, translational research support for: Vanderbilt innovations that require proof of concept to attain commercial relevance; nascent projects with strong innovation potential; and research projects with civic and social relevance.

The program is sponsored by the Offices of the Chancellor, Provost, and Finance at Vanderbilt University (VU). The program is managed by the VU VPRI's Office, VUMC Office of Research, and academic leadership of VU schools and colleges. Program administration is provided by CTTC, the Wond'ry, and the Brock Center at VUMC.

Full-time faculty of any discipline from VU or VUMC are eligible to apply. While part-time faculty, trainees, students, and staff are not eligible to apply as PI, they can participate as collaborators.

Applicants should propose a budget based on their needs. Award requests below \$10,000 require fewer application materials. Larger dollar awards may be tranching, based on milestones.

Application cycles are open February, June, and October, with application review structured for rapid turnaround.

Visit <https://cttc.co/inventors/innovation-catalyst-fund>

Innovation Investment Committee

Provides equity-based early-stage seed funding (and Series A funding) for Vanderbilt-affiliated new ventures. Decisions are made by an external committee and are subject to the venture raising additional capital as part of the raise.

The program is sponsored by the Offices of the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of Finance and Information Technology at Vanderbilt University (VU). Investment recommendations are made by the Innovation Investment Committee (IIC), comprised of external investment experts, as well as VU and VUMC personnel. The program is managed by VU Finance and administered by the Financial Planning & Analysis team in conjunction with OGC and CTTC.

Any legally incorporated new venture/young company affiliated with VU or VUMC is eligible to apply – including faculty, staff, students and alumni startups.

Seed investments can range from \$50k-\$250k, and Series A syndicated investments can range up to \$500k. Investments are made in exchange for equity, with an expectation of return on investment, and other capital participation is a condition for eligibility.

Applications are made on an ad hoc basis, organized through and vetted by the Wond'ry or CTTC.

Contact the Wond'ry, CTTC, or Financial Planning & Analysis for more detail.

Who oversees the program?

Who can apply?

How much are awards?

When can you apply?

To learn more: