

For CURRENT **SENIORS** who will matriculate to an M.D. Program this 2026 Entering Cycle (NOT taking a gap/enhancement year):

## 2026 Nance Prize

In 1985, the family and friends of Dr. Dana W. Nance (B.A., 1925, M.D., 1929) endowed the Nance Prize to provide an annual award given to a **student in the College of Arts & Science**. The award recognizes an **outstanding graduating senior** from the pre-medical curriculum who has demonstrated perseverance in overcoming academic, financial, or social obstacles to succeed, who is well-trained in the technical skills acquired through the undergraduate pre-medical curriculum, and who possesses an abiding sense of ethical and moral concern for the patient.

The Dean of the College of Arts & Science joins with the Health Professions Advisory Office in calling for applications from Vanderbilt University pre-med seniors who will matriculate to medical school (MD programs) in the **current cycle** (2026 Entering Medical School Cycle). A faculty committee from the College of Arts & Science will select the Nance Prize Scholars for 2026.

The recipients will receive recognition in the graduation program and a monetary award of up to \$10,000. All applicants will be notified of a decision by May 1, 2026.

Applications are due at the Health Professions Advisory Office **no later than April 3, 2026, by 11:59 pm CST and should be sent electronically via email to [nance.essay@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nance.essay@vanderbilt.edu)**.

The application packet for the Nance Prize must contain the two following items:

**1. Write one essay of 500 words or less addressing the following:**

- Describe the academic, financial, and/or social perseverance you have overcome during your pursuit of becoming a physician AND explain how your past experiences will help you become a stronger physician or deepen your understanding of patients, demonstrating your “concern for the moral and ethical role of the patient.”

Essay must be:

- ✓ Typed.
- ✓ Double-spaced.
- ✓ 12-point font.
- ✓ Labeled with your full legal name (first and last) on every page of the typed essay).

**2. An updated CV/Resume** (attached to include e-mail address, permanent mailing address, and personal phone number).

**Please ensure your submission is thoughtful and professional *to be considered* for this honorary prize.**