

2025-26

SCHOLARSHIPS and Financial Aid



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY



Vanderbilt offers a world-class education at one of the nation's leading universities. Our need-based and merit-based scholarships reflect our dedication to making it accessible and affordable for all admitted students.

OPPORTUNITY VANDERBILT: NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1 For U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens, your ability to pay is not part of the admission decision.**
- 2 We meet 100% of your family's demonstrated financial need.**
- 3 Your financial aid award will not include loans.**

Undocumented and DACA students are eligible for Vanderbilt's institutional need-based financial aid program in the same way as U.S. citizens.

MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, Vanderbilt awards merit-based scholarships to applicants who demonstrate exceptional accomplishment and intellectual promise.

Three signature scholarships—the **Ingram Scholars Program**, the **Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship** and the **Chancellor's Scholarship**—comprise the majority of Vanderbilt's merit-based awards. Vanderbilt offers additional merit-based scholarships to qualified students.

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS EXPLAINED

Providing for a college experience is one of the largest single investments a family will make; we strongly believe that a Vanderbilt education is worth it. Opportunity Vanderbilt is recognized as one of America's best need-based scholarship programs.

THE FINANCIAL AID OFFER

The typical need-based financial aid offer that Vanderbilt provides to first-year undergraduates with demonstrated need includes a combination of grants, need-based scholarships and employment opportunities/expectations.

Grants and need-based scholarships come from various sources, including Vanderbilt, federal, state and private sources. **These funds are considered "gift" assistance and do not require repayment.** Employment opportunities offer students a chance to gain valuable work experience in addition to receiving a paycheck

for hours worked. **Loans are not included in financial aid offers.** Opportunity Vanderbilt provides students the ability to graduate debt-free. However, under certain circumstances or by request, loans from federal and other sources may ultimately be made available to students to replace any work expectation in the award or to replace some portion of the family's expected contribution.

HOW NEED IS DETERMINED

Demonstrated financial need is determined by using the financial data you and your family submit. Your file will be individually reviewed in order to determine your family's expected family contribution (EFC). Once your EFC has been determined, your financial aid officer will calculate the difference between the cost of attending Vanderbilt and the contribution expected from you and your parents.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

(MINUS)

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

(EQUALS)

DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR 2025-26

Tuition and Fees (73%)	\$71,226
+ Housing and Food (24%)	\$23,048
+ Books and Personal (3%)	\$3,100
ESTIMATED TOTAL (for one academic year)	\$97,374*

*An allowance for travel will also be added to this cost and is calculated based upon the student's state of residence.

*To support success in the School of Engineering, each first-year engineering student is required to have a laptop computer with capabilities that meet or exceed Vanderbilt School of Engineering requirements. For students with demonstrated need and select incoming scholarship recipients, Vanderbilt will provide a loaner laptop for the student to use while enrolled in the School of Engineering.

GIFT ASSISTANCE AWARDED TO FIRST-YEAR VANDERBILT UNDERGRADUATES

92.8%
VANDERBILT SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Vanderbilt Scholarships
\$64,816,508

6.2%
FEDERAL AND STATE ASSISTANCE

+ Federal and State Grants
\$4,303,889

1.0%
GIFT ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES

+ Other Sources
\$699,321

Total Amount of Gift Assistance
\$69,819,718

from all sources, awarded to all first-year undergraduate students for the 2025-26 academic year*

*as of June 2025



The average need-based financial aid package for first-year students entering fall 2025 contained

98%
GIFT AID

20%
WORK

Financial aid awards do not include loans to meet demonstrated need.

65% of Vanderbilt students received some type of financial assistance from one or more sources in 2024–25.



Visit our net price calculator to estimate your eligibility for need-based aid.

vu.edu/netprice

Income is only one consideration when determining eligibility for need-based financial aid. Other significant factors include, but are not limited to, family size, number of children in college, private elementary and secondary tuition expenses and family assets.

LEARN HOW TO APPLY FOR OPPORTUNITY VANDERBILT NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS ON PAGE 11.

NEED-BASED AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS 2025–26*

PARENT INCOME RANGE	MEDIAN ANNUAL AWARD	% OF APPLICANTS OFFERED AID	AWARD RANGE
\$0–\$49,999	\$96,968	98%	\$72,022–\$99,390
\$50,000–\$74,999	\$95,934	100%	\$36,526–\$98,900
\$75,000–\$99,999	\$93,011	96%	\$57,499–\$98,044
\$100,000–\$124,999	\$85,528	100%	\$39,512–\$96,574
\$125,000–\$149,999	\$76,989	96%	\$13,779–\$87,879
\$150,000–\$174,999	\$68,581	93%	\$33,188–\$81,830
\$175,000–\$199,999	\$63,739	96%	\$39,627–\$82,441
\$200,000+	\$44,317	40%	\$1,729–\$78,878

*as of June 2025



SIGNATURE MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Recipients of these scholarships are guaranteed full-tuition awards for up to eight semesters that include a summer stipend for research, study abroad, a creative endeavor or the required Immersion Vanderbilt experience. Additionally, Ingram Scholars receive all required fees and the value of on-campus housing.

MISSION AND HISTORY OF VANDERBILT'S SIGNATURE SCHOLARSHIPS

INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

E. Bronson Ingram, chairman of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust from 1991 until his death in 1995, conceived the Ingram Scholars Program in 1993 as a way to encourage Vanderbilt students to combine a professional or business career with a lifelong commitment to finding solutions to crucial problems facing modern society. Ingram's own life exemplified volunteerism and an untiring commitment to mobilizing resources of the business community to assist nonprofit community groups. His endeavors have been continued by his family, including his wife, Martha R. Ingram, chairman emerita of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust.

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT SCHOLARSHIP

The Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship began in 2007 with a gift from the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation of Atlanta and was designated to unite and strengthen Vanderbilt's existing full-tuition academic merit scholarships under the umbrella of a coordinated and cohesive scholarship. The Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship honors the vision of Vanderbilt University's founder, Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who endowed the university in 1873 with a gift of \$1 million to "contribute to strengthening the ties which should exist between all sections of our common country." Today, Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars continue that mission, bringing intellectual and community leadership to the Vanderbilt campus. They forge interdisciplinary and interpersonal connections that unite people and ideas across the world.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt initiated Chancellor's Scholars in 1985 to recognize students with outstanding leadership skills, strength of character, academic achievement and a deep-seated commitment to fostering collaboration, inclusion and belonging among students from different backgrounds and perspectives. Chancellor's Scholars have worked to build strong communities in their high schools by leading collaborative efforts among students with varying perspectives, and they have demonstrated significant interest in promoting dialogue within their high school community. Chancellor's Scholars are expected to build upon these efforts through continued active engagement in collaborative academic and leadership opportunities at Vanderbilt. The scholarship is funded with gifts from alumni, faculty, staff, students, corporations and friends of the university.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Vanderbilt provides scholarship assistance for students named National Merit Finalists. Students must be admitted and designate Vanderbilt as their first-choice school with the National Merit Corporation by the final deadline to receive Vanderbilt's National Merit Scholarship. For those finalists who also receive one of Vanderbilt's merit-based scholarships, we guarantee an additional \$2,000 in National Merit total scholarship dollars per year from all sources (with Vanderbilt supplementing any smaller corporate or one-time National Merit Corporation awards). Those finalists who do not receive an additional merit-based scholarship from Vanderbilt will receive a total of up to \$6,000 per year in National Merit Scholarship assistance from all sources (with Vanderbilt supplementing any smaller corporate or one-time National Merit Corporation awards).

ADDITIONAL MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AT VANDERBILT

Vanderbilt offers a limited number of additional merit-based scholarships in amounts starting from \$8,000 per year. Candidates for these scholarships will be identified by the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships on the basis of academic achievement and fulfillment of any specific scholarship qualifications unless noted below. Students wishing to ensure their consideration for these awards are encouraged to submit the Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship application by Dec. 1, 2025.

These additional merit-based scholarships include the following:

The Blair Community Scholars Program for Blair students who are committed to civic-minded service, fostering appreciation of the arts, cultivating new audiences for the arts and strengthening public arts education (full cost of attendance and summer study stipend; eligible applicants must also demonstrate financial need)

Carell Family Scholarship for students who have held part-time employment during their high school years and demonstrate financial need (full tuition and fees)

Clark Scholars Program provides scholarship and programmatic assistance to meritorious engineering undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need (\$15,000 per year plus assistance for a summer immersive experience)

Curb Leadership Scholarship for students who place creativity at the center of their lives and use their talents and leadership to transform their communities, and demonstrate financial need (\$8,000)

Fred Russell–Grantland Rice Scholarship for students interested in pursuing a career in sports journalism (\$25,000)





How to Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS AT VANDERBILT

OPPORTUNITY VANDERBILT: NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid forms and instructions are available at vu.edu/finaid.

SIMPLY SUBMIT TWO FORMS:

College Scholarship Service
(CSS) Financial Aid
Profile

Free Application for
Federal Student Aid
(FAFSA)

Your FAFSA and CSS Profile results will be sent to us electronically. Our office will review these two forms upon receipt, and, if necessary, we will request additional documentation to verify your information. If you are admitted to Vanderbilt, your financial aid letter will be available online via your MyAppVU portal detailing your financial aid award based on

the timetable listed on page 12. Need-based assistance is awarded for one year, and students must reapply each year to determine continuing eligibility. The application decision plan that a student selects (Early or Regular Decision) is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage in the need-based scholarship application process.

SIGNATURE MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

There are separate applications for each of the three signature merit scholarships. Scholarship applications will be available via your MyAppVU portal after you apply for admission.

For all three signature scholarships, the application is strongly encouraged; preference is given to those who apply. Students who wish to be considered for additional merit scholarships are encouraged to complete the Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship application.

You must apply for admission separately to be considered for merit scholarships (vu.edu/apply). Please note that the admission deadlines are different from the merit scholarship deadlines.

All merit-based scholarship awards are renewable through four years (eight semesters) of undergraduate study as long as the recipient maintains at least a 3.0 GPA. The application decision plan a student selects (Early or Regular Decision) is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage in the merit-based scholarship selection process. Financial need is not a factor unless otherwise indicated.

DATES AND DEADLINES

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

EARLY DECISION I

- November 1, 2025** — Priority filing deadline for CSS Profile and FAFSA
- December 1, 2025** — Deadline for merit scholarship applications
- Mid-December 2025** — Preliminary financial aid offers available
- Late March 2026** — Updated financial aid offers available

EARLY DECISION II

- December 1, 2025** — Deadline for merit scholarship applications
- January 2, 2026** — Priority filing deadline for CSS Profile and FAFSA
- Mid-February 2026** — Preliminary financial aid offers available
- Late March 2026** — Updated financial aid offers available

REGULAR DECISION

- December 1, 2025** — Deadline for merit scholarship applications
- February 1, 2026** — Priority filing deadline for CSS Profile and FAFSA
- Late March 2026** — Financial aid offers available

MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP	APPLICATION	DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION
Ingram	Encouraged*	December 1, 2025	Late March 2026
Cornelius Vanderbilt	Encouraged*	December 1, 2025	Late March 2026
Chancellor’s	Encouraged*	December 1, 2025	Late March 2026
Additional Merit	Encouraged*	December 1, 2025	Late March 2026

** Qualified students may also be identified for consideration on the basis of the application for first-year admission. Preference is given to those who apply.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When I apply for need-based financial aid, am I also being considered for Vanderbilt merit-based scholarships?

No. The application for need-based scholarships is separate from the merit-based scholarship application process. To be considered for merit-based scholarships, there is a separate application process through your MyAppVU portal after you apply for admission. Additional information regarding scholarships, including opportunities for National Merit Finalists, can be found at vu.edu/scholarships.

How can I find out about scholarships or financial aid that may be available outside of Vanderbilt?

Vanderbilt students have been very successful in obtaining outside sources of assistance. For the 2024–25 academic year, Vanderbilt undergraduates were awarded outside assistance of more than \$9,525,800. This included more than \$3.39 million in gift assistance from the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship program (up to \$5,700 per year, per student). Also included was \$5,070,140 awarded to students after applying on their own to sponsoring organizations, including parents’ employers, religious organizations, fraternal societies, women’s clubs and veterans groups. Information and advice regarding outside sources of assistance can be obtained through your high school guidance counselor, publications and the internet. You may also access FastWeb, a free resource for information regarding scholarship opportunities available from a variety of entities, at fastweb.com.

Can my parents secure a loan to help pay for my educational expenses?

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan provides an opportunity for parents potentially to borrow up to your full cost of attendance for each academic year, minus any financial assistance received. Information regarding the PLUS Loan can be found on our website at vu.edu/loans-fedplus.

How will outside scholarships affect my financial aid package?

Based upon past experience, we anticipate that many of our first-year undergraduate students will receive outside scholarships or other gift

assistance to help fund their education costs. Any outside scholarship(s) must be taken into account as part of your total need-based financial aid package and cannot be counted as part of, or as a replacement for, your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

If an adjustment in your need-based financial aid package is necessary, the outside scholarship will be used first to replace an equivalent amount of work expectation. Receipt of outside scholarship funds may sometimes result in a reduction of other grant/gift funds, but such reductions will be made only as a last resort and only if no other options exist.

What types of employment opportunities are available?

There are a variety of jobs available on campus and in the surrounding Nashville area that provide part-time employment opportunities for students. Payment is dependent upon the position obtained and the type of work performed. Students earn a paycheck for the hours worked each pay period, and those funds may be saved or applied to living expenses.

Will I receive the same need-based financial aid offer every year?

While Vanderbilt’s costs may increase from year to year, if your family’s circumstances—particularly the number of family members, family members in college, income and assets—remain relatively unchanged, you can expect to receive a comparable amount of aid during your upper-division years. To be considered for institutional need-based financial assistance, you must reapply each year by completing the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Financial Aid Profile. To be considered for federal, state and institutional financial aid programs, you must reapply each year by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

FIND MORE ANSWERS AT vu.edu/finaid

For more information about need-based and merit-based financial aid, please contact: **Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships** Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. CT, by phone at 615-322-3591 or 800-288-0204 or by email at finaid@vanderbilt.edu.





Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

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Nashville, TN 37240

vu.edu/financialaid



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Clear Space