

Charles C. Clayton School of Medicine Scholarship Description and Application Process

Description: The C. C. Clayton Award was established in 1978 to reward outstanding rising second year (or beyond) graduate students in School of Medicine advanced degree programs. The award is made in honor of Dr. Charles Clayton, who served as Professor of Biochemistry and Assistant Dean of the School of Basic Sciences and Graduate Studies. Dr. Clayton came to the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) in 1949. He rose through the academic ranks, making scholarly contributions in the area of lipid biochemistry, while carrying extensive teaching responsibilities in all of the health professions programs at MCV after World War II. The graduate programs had been suspended during the War to devote the entire effort of the faculty to training health professions practitioners in a variety of accelerated programs. Dr. Clayton was also instrumental in developing the first doctoral programs at MCV. Daniel T. Watts tapped Dr. Clayton to serve as Assistant Dean during the period of rapid growth of the graduate programs in biomedical sciences at the newly created Health Sciences Division of Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Clayton served in this capacity, and as Executive Secretary of the A. D. Williams Committee, until his unexpected and untimely death in 1977.

Eligibility criteria: Program directors can nominate students that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- in their second year or beyond of full-time graduate training
- a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater in their current graduate program
- exemplary productivity in research, clinical or other training as defined by each program
- additional criteria as defined by each program
- has not received the award at the current degree program level

Application Process:

1. In each application cycle, each M.S. program can nominate one student and each Ph.D. program can nominate one student.
2. Program directors can nominate students that meet all eligibility criteria (see above) by completing this [Google form](#) that will collect identifying information and a single PDF for each nominee with the following:
 - a. Identifying information for nominee
 1. last name
 2. first name
 3. V number
 4. e-mail address
 5. degree level
 6. degree program
 7. award sought (Clayton Scholarship in this case)
 - b. Single PDF for nominee
 1. unofficial transcript
 2. CV/resume
 3. one-page letter from student highlighting their graduate accomplishments and career plans
 4. one-page letter of support from the student's advisor for their dissertation, thesis, capstone or other project. If a student does not have an advisor, a letter of support from the student's program can substitute.
3. Nominations should be submitted by **March 31, 2026**.
4. Nominations will be reviewed by the SOM Graduate Education Executive Committee considering the award's eligibility criteria.
5. Based on the Committee's review and the availability of funds, the SOM Associate Dean for Graduate Education will select up to one awardee per Ph.D. program and one awardee per M.S. program (\$1,000 for Ph.D. students, \$500 for M.S. students, supported by SOM).
6. Nominees not selected as awardees may be eligible for SOM discretionary awards later in the academic year (historically \$250 and \$100 for Ph.D. and M.S. nominees, respectively).

Approved by the School of Medicine Graduate Programs Committee: August, 2019

Revised: February, 2026