

ZONTA CLUB OF WASHINGTON, DC
Requirements For The Edith SeVille Coale Medical Scholarships

The Edith SeVille Coale Medical Scholarships are open to women medical students who will be entering their second and third year of medical school in the fall.

Applicants for the scholarship are required to assemble the following items and **submit them not later than June 1, 2026 to the Zonta Club via the following link: [ESC Application](#)** These items are requested for review by the scholarship selection committee to assess eligibility for the award.

1. Essay about yourself (500 words or less)

Dr. Coale wanted to encourage and assist “sincere and qualified women” in their effort “to earn the degree of Doctor of Medicine for the practice of medicine and surgery, or for medical research.” The selection committee is interested in your motivation for becoming a physician. It would be appropriate to include how you plan to utilize your medical degree upon graduation and to describe any volunteer or paid work or community service that you have done (or are doing) that serves the health and social needs of others. The committee recognizes that students must give priority to their medical studies; however, credit is given to applicants who exhibit both academic excellence and concern for others through compassionate work and/or community service.

2. A statement of your anticipated financial needs for the next year and possible sources of support

Dr. Coale requested that Zonta award the scholarship to a woman “dependent upon her own efforts for the maintenance and or a portion at least of her college expenses...” Therefore, input on your efforts to meet living and education expenses is valuable to the selection committee.

3. A copy of your previous year’s 1040 US tax form or IRS form stating that you do not have to file a 1040 (*SSN should be blacked out*)

The 1040 form provides the committee with additional information to assess your financial need. If you do not need to file a 1040, you may wish to complete a 1040 short form for submission to the committee even though you do not file it with the IRS. This provides the committee with the same type of information as provided by other applicants and enables comparison of financial status and needs.

4. A transcript of your grades from the medical school registrar

All schools have some method to distinguish between students simply passing and those performing above the norm by assigning designations such as pass, high pass, honors, etc. Students selected for scholarships generally demonstrate well above average academic performance.

5. Two letters of recommendation with at least one coming from a professor

These letters of recommendation should address your merit for being awarded the scholarship and be included with your application sent from the Financial Aid Office.

6. A statement from the Financial Aid Office or your school

Statements provided by the financial aid offices generally indicate tuition, related fees, and educational expenses for their medical students. Further, these statements typically include how educational expenses and living costs may be met – for example, by other scholarships, student loans, financial assistance from parents, or anticipated earned income. The statement provides the selection committee with additional information for assessing financial need.

EDITH SEVILLE COALE, M.D.

Benefactor of the Edith Seville Coale Medical Scholarships

Dr. Edith Seville Coale was born January 23, 1878, in Mansfield OH, of Huguenot stock. She moved to Montgomery County MD, with her family when she was 16 years old. Her father and two brothers died a few years later. Intent on becoming a physician, which was not a popular vocation for women at that time, she trained as a nurse, and with the money she earned was able to finance her education at the Woman's Medical College of Baltimore (which later merged with Johns Hopkins). She was graduated in 1908 when a woman physician was considered "a novelty" and served for the next five years as resident physician at the Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases, Retreat PA.

In 1913, she began her long and successful medical practice in Washington DC. From 1928, until she retired in 1955, she maintained her home and offices at the Hay-Adams Hotel, across from the White House. In addition to her private practice, she served as medical inspector of the public schools, clinician for the Woman's Clinic, a member of the District Child Welfare staff, and for eight years she assisted the District alienist. When the Medical Department of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company was established in 1921, she was appointed one of the first two examining physicians.

These responsibilities and her large practice, which sometimes required 16 hours a day, left her very little time for recreation, but with her almost unlimited energy and enthusiasm she did find time to belong to 22 professional and civic organizations which she supported generously with her talents and money. She was a member of the American Medical Association, a member and Past President of Branch One of the American Medical Women's Association, and a life member and former Vice President of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. She spent many summers studying medicine in Vienna and was a life member of the Medical Association of Vienna.

She was elected to the Zonta Club of Washington DC in 1923 and served as its President in 1933-34. She was a founder and former director of the Women's City Club, a founder and life member of the member of the Huguenot Society, and a member of the Board of Stewards of the Foundry Methodist Church.

A petite woman, Dr. Coale never lost her femininity and sparkle. She wore smart clothes and her usual adornment was pearls.

When she died, November 2, 1962, she left no immediate relatives but many heirs, because her will provided that the income from the bulk of her estate be used for **scholarships for women medical students under the administration of the Zonta Club.*** Thus, owing to her generosity and foresight on behalf of young women who might struggle in vain to achieve the goal which she herself achieved despite great adversity, many future women physicians will recall with affection and gratitude their great-hearted benefactress, Edith Seville Coale.

*** The Zonta Club of Washington, DC, is a member club of Zonta International, which is a global service organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.**