



UToledo Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Agenda

April 8, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Executive Session
 - To discuss trade secrets under Ohio Uniform Trade Secret Act.
4. Action Items
 - A. Resolution 26-04-15: Approval to Add New Degree Program: Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia
5. Other Business, if any
6. Adjournment

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO. 26-04-15

**APPROVAL TO ADD NEW DEGREE PROGRAM:
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE ANESTHESIA**

- WHEREAS, the University of Toledo desires to add the Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia; and,
- WHEREAS, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia supports The University of Toledo's mission and vision; and,
- WHEREAS, the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia has completed all necessary curricular and new program proposal reviews according to University policy; and,
- WHEREAS, the Provost and President have provided support for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the Board of Trustees of The University of Toledo approves the addition of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia as presented in Appendix A.

New Degree: Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia

Presented by Dr. Mark Merrick
Dean, College of Health and Human Services

April 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO

Purpose

The School of Nursing in CHHS seeks to:

- Establish a 3-year Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia degree that will be the only one in the region
- Preserves a vital supply of healthcare professions who are in critical shortage in the region and nation

Accreditation

- Add a track in our existing Doctor of Nursing Practice for accreditation purposes by CCNE.
- Apply as a new program for ODHE and HLC purposes to facilitate a timely program launch
- The anesthesia content will be accredited by COA
 - We are submitting materials next week for review at June meeting with the intention of launching the program Fall 2026

Structure

- DNP – Nurse Anesthesia is a track in our existing DNP Program
- 97 credits including DNP core and Nurse Anesthesia content
- Completed over 3 years (9 consecutive semesters)
- Establishing program requires hiring 2.75 FTE faculty who meet licensure and expertise requirements
- Will be housed in School of Nursing and will use IISC extensively in partnership with our Physician Residency in Anesthesia



Conclusion

This would be the region's only nurse anesthesia program.

Meets critical shortage for CRNAs in the region and nation, including at UTMC.

Strong student demand and employer demand. Expected to grow capacity in the coming years.





Thank you



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO

Executive Summary
Proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice Anesthesia
College of Health and Human Services

The College of Health and Human Services seeks approval from the Board of Trustees to establish a new Nurse Anesthesia track in the Doctor of Nursing Practice. This degree would meet a vital workforce need for essential health care professionals in northwest Ohio. Nationally, the university's own medical center has identified nurse anesthetists as a critical area of staffing need with potential for substantial impact. Demand appears similar across many systems in the region and beyond. Currently, the only Nurse Anesthesia program in the region is at Lourdes University, and it is closing this summer. With that announced closure, the northwest Ohio region is losing its only Nurse Anesthesia program, exacerbating an existing shortage of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in the region and state. There is a projected national shortage of 12,500 CRNAs, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows projected employment growth for the profession of 10% from 2023–2033. Likewise, the number of prospective student applicants for these programs often exceeds the available number of slots in a typical program by around 10 to 1. It is anticipated that there will be over 200 applicants for an initial cohort size of 26 students, with plans to petition the accreditor to allow an increase in cohort size in coming years once demand and capacity are demonstrated.

The nurse anesthetist degree program results in the awarding of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, a degree already offered at UToledo. However, the program is being approached as a “new” program for approval purposes with ODHE and HLC. The specific programmatic accreditors for the program include Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, which accredits the DNP degree and has indicated support for adding the nurse anesthesia track within it. Additionally, the nurse anesthesia content will be accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia (COA). We are preparing materials for the COA review meeting to take place in Summer 2026. The proposed degree is completed over three years (nine consecutive semesters, including summers) and includes 97 credit hours inclusive of the DNP core courses. Additional faculty with the appropriate professional credentials and licensure will be required to offer the program, and efforts are underway to hire displaced nurse anesthesia faculty from Lourdes University (2.75 FTE). The program will be housed in existing space in the Collier Building and will make extensive use of the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center. A complete set of clinical placement sites is already available under existing clinical affiliation agreements with the college.

UToledo is uniquely positioned to offer this program in the region, and the program will be a substantial asset to both the university's academic and clinical portfolios while preserving a regional workforce supply chain that is vital. With the School of Nursing, in partnership with the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center and the Anesthesia Residency program, there are appropriate resources, alignment, partnerships, and demand for the program to be highly successful from the start.