

**INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
MAY 2, 2024**

TAB	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY – DOCTOR OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE	Action Item

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IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

SUBJECT

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

REFERENCE

April 2024

The Board approved the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program and the associated professional fee.

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Idaho State Board of Education Governing Policies & Procedures, Section III.G. and Section V.R.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program within the Idaho State University (ISU) School of Nursing will focus on preparing nurse anesthesiologists to practice within the full scope of anesthesia services for Idaho's diverse patient population. Developed as a public-private partnership with West Idaho Anesthesia LLP, the DNAP program at ISU will prepare exemplary nurse leaders who integrate education, service, and scholarship through practice and research to enhance the quality of life for all Idahoans by expanding and enhancing anesthesia services within the state. The ISU program will meet all the requirements for students to take the National Certification Exam (NCE). Passing the NCE is required to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA). This rigorous program emphasizes real-world clinical practice. The program culminates in the writing and presentation of a Capstone project which is designed to demonstrate program outcomes through the improvement of practice. The program is full-time, year-round, and completed over three years as required by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

There are over 455 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (CRNAs) in Idaho (2022 Idaho Nursing Workforce Report). At this time, there is neither a public nor private CRNA program in the state. Idaho is one of only a handful of states in the U.S. without a nurse anesthesia program. It is widely known that students tend to practice in the area where they received their education; however, registered nurses who want to become CRNAs must currently leave this state for their education. This ongoing issue has resulted in a loss of workforce for Idaho.

Despite having over 455 CRNAs licensed in Idaho, there is a major shortage of CRNAs across the state. Currently, in the greater Boise area, Saint Alphonsus is in need of 25 full-time CRNAs. St. Luke's Health System is in need of 18 full-time CRNAs. Saint Luke's also expects to need 10 more full-time CRNAs in the next 5 years (data received 11/2023 from Nick Russell, St. Alphonsus Anesthesia and Clint Allred, Chief CRNA, Anesthesia Associates of Boise). Many smaller anesthesia groups are looking for staffing as well. Based on these numbers as

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well as job postings from smaller groups found on Gaswork.com, we estimate there to be a shortage of approximately 60-70 full-time CRNAs within the state.

Because of the current shortages, salaries in Idaho have increased by 25% or more within the last year (2023). The recruitment and retention costs are staggering. The use of locum contractors has overburdened many healthcare systems. Some outpatient procedures have had to be canceled or delayed for long periods of time due to a lack of adequate anesthesia personnel. Additionally, the majority of rural healthcare agencies use *only* CRNAs (due to the cost savings versus hiring a physician anesthesiologist) and would have difficulty continuing patient care requiring anesthesia without CRNAs. A majority of anesthetics delivered in the U.S. are delivered by CRNAs. Many of these anesthetics are delivered in independent practice settings almost exclusively by CRNAs. Idaho is one of 22 states in the U.S. that has opted out of physician supervision for Medicare reimbursement (Idaho opted out in 2002).

Currently, RNs leave Idaho to attend out-of-state CRNA programs. It is known that graduates tend to stay in the state where they complete the program due to extended time in the new area. Thus, Idaho is losing its own nursing workforce by not having an in-state CRNA program.

Other regional programs have reported high numbers of applicants to their programs with most programs receiving over 100 applicants for an average of 20 spots available. The program has not officially been announced, yet inquiries are coming into the School of Nursing on a weekly basis.

IMPACT

Idaho State University requests approval to add a professional fee to help fund the proposed Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program, in addition to normal graduate tuition and other fees, in accordance with Board Policy V.R., subsection 3.b.iii. The professional fee would initially be established at \$7,957 per semester for three semesters per year. Estimated Professional Fees are \$71,611.

Overview of the personnel resources that will be needed to implement the program:

- Year 1 - Program Director (PD) + 0.8 FTE Assistant Program Director (APD), adjunct faculty and administrative support
- Year 2 - PD + 0.8 FTE Assistant Program Director + 2 Instructors (0.8 each), adjunct faculty and administrative support
- Year 3 - PD + 0.8 FTE Assistant Program Director + 4 Instructors (0.8 each), adjunct faculty and administrative support

The Meridian campus has adequate classroom space and synchronous capabilities to include the L.S. and Aline W. Skaggs Treasure Valley Anatomy and Physiology laboratories. Students will also have access to computer labs. ISU will

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also look into possibly sharing simulation resources with Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine and will use professional fees to supplement this shared opportunity. Total expenditures are \$813,765 - \$2,215,534 of ongoing funding over four years and \$50,875 - \$152,625 of one-time funding over four years. The program will initially be supported by institutional reserves and ultimately funded by tuition and professional fees.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Consistent with Board Policy III.G.3.a.i (2), an institution requesting a new doctoral program must also complete an external peer review of the proposed program in addition to a full program proposal. The proposed DNAP program will require a specialized accreditation review, which can only occur once the program has been approved by the Board. This is a standard requirement for accreditation procedures. As part of the proposal request considered by the Board in April, Idaho State University requested that the specialized accreditation review fulfill the Board's standard external peer review requirement. The specialized accreditation process is more rigorous, is conducted by an external review panel, and is required before students may be enrolled in the program.

The request to waive the relevant subsection of Board Policy III.G for the external peer review requirement was inadvertently not included in the motion in the April Board meeting materials. To correct this, Board staff is bringing the request forward on behalf of Idaho State University for the Board's review and official approval of the waiver.

Staff notes the first reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III.G.3. to provide for institutions ability to supplant the external review with initial specialized accreditation review were approved by the Board in April.

Board staff recommends approval.

BOARD ACTION

I move to approve the request by Idaho State University for a one time waiver of Board Policy III.G.3.a.i.(2) to allow for the specialized accreditation review to fulfill the Board's external peer review requirement for the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program proposal.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____