

# PRESS RELEASE

WWW.GANNON.EDU/NEWSWORTHY



## UPMC Hamot, Gannon University proud to graduate first class of students in cooperative nurse anesthesia program

ERIE, PA. (May 8, 2025) - The UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia/Gannon University DNP program will graduate the first class of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students from their nurse anesthesia degree program on Friday, May 9, with a ceremony at the Kahkwa Club hosted by UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia and Saturday, May 10, during Gannon's graduate commencement ceremony.

**UPMC**  
**HAMOT**

The long running nurse anesthetist program, which prepares professional nurses with an in-depth concentration in clinical anesthesia, welcomed its first cohort in 1965. The new cooperative DNP cohort began in 2022. The inaugural DNP graduating class includes 19 students who have completed nine semesters of coursework, featuring a comprehensive blend of didactic and clinical experiences at UPMC Hamot and regional hospitals. The program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, which is required of all nurse anesthesia programs in the United States. Gannon University maintains Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation.

The program was recently ranked No. 68 on U.S. News & World Report's 2025 list of Best Nursing-Anesthesia Schools.

"As advanced practice providers, our graduates are entering the field at a critical time, and I have no doubt they will make a profound impact on patient care and the future of healthcare," said Rachel A. Wolfe, DNP, CRNA, CCRN, CPN, director of the UPMC School of Anesthesia. "These graduates have met an exceptionally high standard of academic and clinical excellence, and their achievement reflects the dedication, rigor and vision that this program was founded on."

"It is an incredible honor to celebrate the first graduating class of our Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia degree option students," said Kimberly Cavanagh, DHSc, PA-C, dean of the Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences at Gannon University. "Our partnership with UPMC Hamot and the UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia ensures that students receive a comprehensive, specialized education focused on contemporary practice, social responsibility, collaboration and leadership."

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the necessary examination required to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

### Media Availability:

When: Friday, May 9, 2025

Time: 5 p.m.

Where: The Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Club Road, Erie, PA

Interview Availability: Dr. Rachel Wolfe

**Doug Oathout**

Chief of Staff  
814-871-7470

oathout002@gannon.edu

**Jaclyn Clover**

Assistant Director of Marketing  
814-806-4955  
clover003@gannon.edu

# PRESS RELEASE

[WWW.GANNON.EDU/NEWSWORTHY](http://WWW.GANNON.EDU/NEWSWORTHY)



**About Gannon University:**

Gannon University is a Catholic, diocesan university with campuses in Erie, Pennsylvania, and Ruskin, Florida, offering online and traditional associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs to more than 4,700 academically talented and diverse students.

Gannon University is dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. Inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the University offers a comprehensive, values-centered learning experience that emphasizes faith, leadership, inclusiveness and social responsibility.

**Doug Oathout**

Chief of Staff  
814-871-7470  
[oathout002@gannon.edu](mailto:oathout002@gannon.edu)

**Jaclyn Clover**

Assistant Director of Marketing  
814-806-4955  
[clover003@gannon.edu](mailto:clover003@gannon.edu)