

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL CENTER

Compassionate | Creative | Committed | Collaborative

Why do we have a CDA process for allocating non-clinical time?

In most other Departments of Anesthesiology, non-clinical time is determined either unilaterally by the Chair or by a small group of Department leaders. The criteria guiding this process at other institutions is generally unknown, opaque, and/or arcane.

Starting more than 10 years ago, our Department decided to democratize and rationalize the process of allocating non-clinical time. The Career Development Award (CDA) process is based on a typical grant submission and review process. This allows for: 1) a structured, equitable and merit-based process in which each faculty can advocate for the CDA they think they need; 2) a representative cross-section of knowledgeable (albeit senior) peers to review the requests and make recommendations; and 3) a rational and auditable system for allocating a precious Departmental resource.