



**Trinity College of Nursing  
& Health Sciences**  
**UnityPoint Health**

23 March 2026

**To:** All Current Students of Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences

**From:** Dr. Tracy Poelvoorde, Chancellor, Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences | Dr. Andrea Talentino, President, Augustana College

**Date:** 23 March 2026

**Subject:** What the Augustana–Trinity Integration Means for You — Here's What You Need to Know

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Dear Trinity Student,

As we announced in December of 2025, Augustana College and Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences plan to come together as one institution. This is an exciting and hopeful moment — one rooted in a shared commitment to students, the Quad Cities community, and the future of nursing and health sciences education in our region.

This represents the continuation of Trinity's valued role in the education and professional development of the regional healthcare workforce, expands the reach of critically needed health sciences programs, and builds on a transformational partnership to deliver on high-quality, study-to-career pathways — together developing stronger learners and communities.

We want you to understand exactly what is happening, when, and — most importantly — what it means for you. We are sending this notice because federal rules around two institutions integrating require it, and because we believe you deserve clear, straightforward information about what this change means for your education and your future.

**The short version: your education continues without interruption. The longer version is below.**

## The Integration Will Occur in Two Steps

Why two steps? U.S. Department of Education regulations require that transactions relating to mergers like this one happen in two distinct steps. The time between Step One and Step Two will allow Augustana and Trinity to work together to integrate operations, campus cultures, and academics to ensure a smooth transition for students and the broader community.

Here is what each step means.

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### **Step One: Augustana Acquires Trinity's Programs and Operations — Trinity Students Continue Their Studies**

In Step One, Augustana will acquire the programs, assets, operations, students, and personnel of Trinity. Trinity and Augustana anticipate this will occur on June 30, 2026, prior to the start of the Fall 2026 term. During Step One, Trinity will continue to exist in the eyes of the U.S. Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission (Trinity and Augustana's institutional accreditor), as a separate, degree-granting educational institution with separate accreditation and separate state authorization for purposes of U.S. Department of Education program administration — including Federal Student Aid. **In practical terms, this means that Trinity's programs — and the spaces in which you learn — will continue operating as they are now during Step One.**

Step One will conclude after Augustana and Trinity receive all appropriate regulatory approvals, which will occur after the transaction closes. This will include the U.S. Department of Education approving the transaction as a "change in ownership that results in a change of control." We cannot predict the timeline for this approval, but are generally aware that, in the past, this has taken approximately two years.

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### **FAQ — Step One**

#### **Q: What does Step One mean for me right now as a Trinity student?**

The answer is: very little changes for your day-to-day experience. Specifically:

- You will still be a student enrolled in your program at Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences.
- You will attend classes in the same manner as you did before Step One occurred.

- Your classes will continue to be offered in the same location, a Trinity Medical Center facility.
- You will have Trinity faculty.
- You will have the opportunity to remain on track to complete your program on time without disruption.

PLUS, you will have access to Augustana student resources, including but not limited to:

Over 150 student organizations, campus recreation facilities and events, CORE and affiliated career development services, the Learning Commons and affiliated academic support services, library services, counseling services, campus events, and the opportunity to purchase a meal plan.

**Q: Will my tuition and financial aid change in Step One?**

No. We are committed to keeping your educational costs stable and predictable during this transition. Trinity will continue to participate in U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid and other financial aid programs throughout Step One. Tuition and aid packages already in place will be honored.

**Q: What diploma will I receive if I graduate between Step One and Step Two?**

Students who graduate between Step One and Step Two will receive a degree from Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences, the same accredited institution in which they enrolled. Trinity College will continue operating its programs during this period while owned by Augustana College.

All Trinity students who complete their programs after the date of the Step One change, but before Step Two will receive a degree from Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

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**Step Two: Trinity and Augustana Become One**

Following U.S. Department of Education and any other necessary approvals of the Step One change, Augustana plans to apply to the Department to fully “merge” the two institutions into Augustana College. The Second Step is also subject to approval by appropriate regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission. Once those approvals are obtained, Trinity will no longer be seen as a separate, degree-granting educational institution.

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## **FAQ — Step Two**

### **Q: What does Step Two mean for me as a student?**

After Step Two is approved, you will be a student of Augustana College, with access to academic resources, support services, and community of the two combined institutions. Your Trinity credits that count toward your Trinity program will transfer to Augustana and your academic progress will be honored through placement within Augustana's degree attainment structure.

### **Q: What diploma will I receive if I graduate after Step Two is approved?**

All Trinity students who complete their programs after Step Two is approved will receive a degree from Augustana College.

### **Q: Is there any chance the plans will change?**

While we are fully committed to this integration and confident in the path we have planned, the regulatory environment and other factors can shift in ways we are unable to predict. The U.S. Department of Education's requirements and guidance around mergers and changes in ownership resulting in changes of control do change from time to time, and — as with any complex initiative — the unexpected can occur. Trinity and Augustana are committed to keeping students informed.

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### **Questions? We Have Answers.**

We have compiled a detailed FAQ to address the questions students are asking most. You can find the current FAQ at:

- <https://www.augustana.edu/about-us/news/trinity-faq>

At Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences you may also contact:

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