Innovative core curriculum redesign immerses students in the liberal arts.

Critical exploration of offerings like Philosophy, Comedy, and Humor; Art Under Hitler; Creative Problem Solving; and Stairway to Heaven: God and Rock.

Emphasizes career-readiness and ethical leadership.

Rooted in the liberal arts and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Designed to navigate and explore a student’s educational pathway within their course of study, keeping in mind the mission and vision of the Sisters of Mercy from Carlow, Ireland, foundresses of Carlow University.

“Liberal arts is brain practice. It makes your brain resilient.”

—Lou Boyle, PhD, chair and professor of English.
THREE SKILLS COURSES—WRITING • SPEAKING • QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Students will also complete one-credit lab experiences which are designed to support development of the writing (W), speaking (S), and quantitative reasoning (Q) skills.

CONNECTING TO CARLOW
This course is designed to help students navigate their career at Carlow. It is infused with important elements of career-readiness and provides an introduction to the liberal arts.

CRITICAL EXPLORATION
Explores a "hot topic" or important social issue and builds foundational critical thinking.

CONTEMPLATION AND ACTION
Focused on many manifestations of service in life, the Contemplation and Action course introduces students to the service tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and Carlow. This course serves as the first building block of the “Just and Merciful World” part of the Compass Curriculum, which will be further strengthened when students take an upper-level Service-Learning or Social Responsibility course.

FOUR LIBERAL ARTS BREADTH EXPERIENCE CLUSTERS
NATURAL WORLD • EXPRESSION • SOCIAL JUSTICE • WISDOM
Minimum two experiences per each cluster.

LIBERAL ARTS DEPTH EXPERIENCE
One upper-level course outside of students’ majors in a discipline in which they’ve already completed one breadth experience course.

ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPERIENCE
Can either be a Service-Learning or Social Responsibility course. Can be taken at any time after Contemplation and Action course is completed.

ANCHOR COURSE
3 credits

MAJOR CAPSTONE
Capstone experience within a major that will draw from all the core competencies.