

2020-2021



**UNDERSTANDING YOUR
CARLOW UNIVERSITY
FINANCIAL AID AWARD**

CARLOW
UNIVERSITY



We are grateful that you are considering Carlow University, and we are pleased to present the enclosed financial aid award for the 2020-2021 academic year.

This booklet was designed to begin the conversation about affording a Carlow education. On the pages that follow, you'll learn more detailed information about your award, the types of aid offered, renewability, and next steps. You even have an opportunity to evaluate Carlow's financial aid award in comparison with the award letters provided by other institutions you may be considering.

The conversation doesn't begin and end with this booklet. This is an important investment for you and your family, and we take great pride in offering personalized attention every step of the way. We are committed to assisting you through the enrollment process and are eager to discuss your award and specific situation. Our goal in the months ahead is to make sure you understand your options and how various gift assistance, borrowing possibilities, student employment opportunities, and payment plans can provide a viable financial path toward a degree from Carlow University.

As you weigh your college options, we are confident that you will see the value in choosing Carlow—just as a multitude of corporations, nonprofits, hospitals and healthcare facilities, school districts, and social service agencies see value in hiring our graduates. Through a values-based education and a deep level of engagement in their chosen discipline, our students are ready to tackle the unique demands of today's employers and are positioned to make a difference in their communities and careers well into the future.



97% OF CARLOW ALUMNI
were employed or enrolled in an advanced degree program within six months of graduation.

YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Affording a college education requires a partnership of resources between you (the student), the institution (Carlow), federal and state agencies, and private sources of funding (through scholarships or loans). We create a financial aid package to depict how many of these resources come together to support your goal of earning an undergraduate degree.

Financial aid awarding is guided by federal and state regulations as well as Carlow University-specific policies related to institutional funds. Any federal assistance offered as part of your award is determined by the results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Your award letter confirms your enrollment (full-time or part-time) and housing status (resident or commuter) for the 2020-2021 academic year. This is based on the FAFSA as well as your application for admission. If this information is incorrect, please contact your enrollment counselor.

Students are billed each semester, so the award letter shows financial aid by semester as well.

NON-REPAYABLE (GIFT) AID

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, and GRANTS are all forms of gift aid, and do not require repayment. They come from federal, state, and private organizations, and will reflect as a credit on your billing statement. Carlow's scholarships and awards, as acknowledged at the time of admission, recognize your academic achievements and various commitments in and out of the classroom. Grants are based on need as determined by the FAFSA. Some scholarships, awards, and grants may be funded through the generosity of donors, alumni groups, or foundations.

If you are a Pennsylvania resident and a PA State Grant appears on your award letter, you should double check your PHEAA account to make sure Carlow University is listed as your primary school. You can access your PHEAA account at pheaa.org or by calling 1.800.692.7392.

If you are graduating from a Pittsburgh Promise-eligible high school, and have not already done so, please be sure to apply for a Promise Scholarship at pittsburghpromise.org.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

To help meet your current responsibility (as necessary), we encourage you to seek out scholarship opportunities from private organizations. Many school counseling offices are a great place to start for scholarship listings. You may also consider your (or your parent's) employer, professional associations, religious establishments, and civic organizations. Additionally, we hope you will explore free online scholarship search engines, many of which will send you alerts as new opportunities are posted. Carlow's website is another great resource for outside scholarship listings and links to searchable databases.



REPAYABLE AID

Loans are a common way to manage your current responsibility after all non-repayable (gift) aid is applied. You may see loans as part of your financial aid award that are **subsidized** (does not accrue interest until enrollment ceases) or **unsubsidized** (begins accruing interest upon loan being disbursed). Generally, you have a six-month grace period on federal student loans after you graduate or leave school before repayment begins.

If your financial aid award includes a **FEDERAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN**, and you plan to use it, you will need to visit **studentloans.gov** and complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note. Remember: these student loans are in your name, so please log in with your information.

Additional borrowing opportunities are available to assist a family with meeting their current responsibility:

- + The **PARENT PLUS LOAN** is a loan taken out by the parent of a dependent student for educational expenses. To be eligible, the student must have filed the FAFSA and the parent must not have adverse credit history. Parents may apply for the PLUS Loan after May 1 by going to **studentloans.gov** and logging in using their FSA ID. If you need assistance in determining the maximum amount you are eligible to receive in a PLUS Loan, contact your enrollment counselor. All parents receiving a PLUS Loan must complete a Master Promissory Note and may be required to complete Entrance Counseling depending on credit history. In the event a PLUS Loan is denied, the student may be eligible for an additional unsubsidized loan.
- + **PRIVATE/ALTERNATIVE LOANS** are also available to parents or students who are credit-worthy or have a credit-worthy co-signer. Terms and conditions vary according to lender guidelines. For a list of private lenders used most frequently by Carlow students, go to **elmselect.com**.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL WORK STUDY, if listed on your award, is an opportunity—not a guarantee—to work on campus. Students may apply for job openings throughout the year in various offices and departments. The amount shown on your award letter represents an approximation of what you may earn each year. Earnings from student employment do not appear as a credit on your account like scholarships, grants, or loans. Rather, you will receive a paycheck based on the hours you work. We trust that you will use your earnings responsibly by paying for tuition charges, purchasing textbooks, or managing other personal expenses.

Students planning to work on campus will need to complete federal and institutional paperwork and provide appropriate documentation showing eligibility to work in the United States. This will be communicated through email by the Work Study Coordinator

► SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If you are facing a reduction in income, excessive medical expenses, or any other significant changes in your family's financial situation, be sure to contact your enrollment counselor. We will ask you to complete a Special Conditions Form to request that your financial aid award be re-evaluated in light of new information. This review may result in additional grants and/or loans.



EXPENSES FOR 2020-2021

Direct expenses are the actual charges billed to the student, which include tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board (if residing on campus).

In addition to direct expenses, certain academic programs or specific courses (e.g. laboratories) may carry a nominal fee. There is also a one-time orientation fee applied to your first semester invoice. A complete listing of these fees can be found on the Carlow website at carlow.edu/tuition.

Please note that student loans are subject to origination fees.

Indirect expenses are not billed but are identified to make sure you consider other types of costs associated with your education. These include approximate costs for books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses, and can be found on the Comparison Worksheet on the inside back cover of this booklet.

2020-2021 COSTS

ANNUAL FEE

Tuition	\$ 30,542
University Fee	\$ 392
Student Activity Fee	\$ 252
Technology Fee	\$ 182
Health & Wellness Fee	\$ 78
Total Tuition and Fees	\$ 31,446

Standard Double Room	\$ 6,326
Board (Meal Plan)	\$ 5,934
Total Room and Board	\$12,260

Total Direct Expenses \$ 43,706

RENEWAL OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID

It's not just about your first year at Carlow. We want you to understand the financial aid picture for the entire time you're with us.

Academic merit scholarships and awards are renewed for a maximum of eight semesters as long as you maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). This means that you are making progress toward graduation in a specified program of study while keeping a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA. A complete explanation of SAP can be found on Carlow's financial aid website.

Athletic scholarships, if applicable, are renewed pending Satisfactory Academic Progress (as outlined above) and continued participation in a varsity sport as confirmed by the Athletic Department.

Need-based financial aid will renew if you continue to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (as outlined above) and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year. Institutional and state grants are limited to a maximum of eight semesters. Please be sure to observe important deadlines for filing the FAFSA (typically May 1 each year) to remain eligible for certain types of aid. Please note that the amount of most federal and state grants is subject to change each year. In addition, changes to your housing status (resident vs. commuter) can have an impact on your need-based assistance.

► FINANCIAL AID DURING THE SUMMER

It is important to note that Carlow scholarships, awards, and grants are only applicable toward fall and spring semesters. They cannot be applied toward summer coursework.

However, loans can be used for summer enrollment. In this case, you may want to decline a portion of your fall and/or spring loan to use during the summer. You must attend at least half-time (6 credits) to be eligible for summer financial aid.

WHAT'S NEXT?

CONFIRM YOUR ENROLLMENT

When you've made your decision to attend Carlow University (if you haven't already), submit your Enrollment Reply Form online through your Bridge to Carlow account or return the form that is enclosed with this financial aid packet.

Traditional first year students admitted to the Class of 2024 are also required to submit an enrollment deposit. There are two ways to pay your \$200 deposit:

- 1) **Online.** Log in to your Bridge to Carlow account to confirm your enrollment and pay your \$200 deposit online using a major credit card.
- 2) **By mail.** Your check or money order for \$200, made payable to Carlow University, can be mailed alongside your Enrollment Reply Form in the enclosed business reply envelope.

The enrollment deposit serves as an advance payment on your first semester bill, and is nonrefundable after May 1, 2020.

PLEASE NOTE: Transfer students are not required to submit an enrollment deposit, but must still submit the Enrollment Reply Form (online or by mail) to confirm their intent to enroll at Carlow.

ACCEPT YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Complete and return the enclosed Financial Aid Reply Form to formally accept your financial aid award. This form also provides you with the opportunity to decline the student loan offerings that may have been presented as part of your package.

SUBMIT VERIFICATION PAPERWORK (IF SELECTED)

The U.S. Department of Education requires Carlow to check the accuracy and integrity of FAFSA information. Approximately one-third of all FAFSA filers are selected to go through this verification process each year. If you were selected this year, additional information and requests for documentation will be sent at a later date. It is important to respond in a timely manner, as your need-based grants and loans could change if an update to your FAFSA is necessary.

APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL AID AND MAKE PLANS FOR PAYMENT

Follow instructions provided earlier in this booklet should you wish to apply for additional aid through Parent PLUS or private loans.

The Office of Student Accounts will mail an invoice approximately 6-8 weeks before the start of each semester. Monthly payment plans are available; further information will be provided with your billing statement.

► WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

While we hope this booklet provides helpful information, we understand you may have additional questions or concerns. We encourage you to reach out to your enrollment counselor, who is an excellent resource to discuss your financial aid award and talk through your next steps. Please contact your counselor directly or call 412.578.6059.



AWARD LETTER COMPARISON WORKSHEET

This worksheet is designed to help you compare the financial aid packages you receive from Carlow and other institutions so that you are equipped to make the best long-term decision for you and your family.

	CARLOW RESIDENT	CARLOW COMMUTER	COLLEGE B	COLLEGE C
Tuition	\$ 30,542	\$ 30,542	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Mandatory Fees	\$ 904	\$ 904	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Double Room	\$ 6,326	—	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Board (Meals)	\$ 5,934	—	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Other (if applicable)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
=Total Direct (Billed) Costs	\$ 43,706	\$ 31,446	\$ _____	\$ _____
Academic/Athletic Scholarships	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Institutional Awards/Grants	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Federal/State Grants	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Outside/ Other Scholarships	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
=Total Non-Repayable (Gift) Aid	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
+Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
=Total Repayable Aid	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Direct (Billed) Costs	\$ 43,706	\$ 31,446	\$ _____	\$ _____
-Total Non-Repayable (Gift) Aid	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
-Total Repayable Aid	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
=Total Current Responsibility	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Parent PLUS Loans or alternative/private loans are opportunities beyond your award, designed to help you meet your current responsibility. Federal Work Study, if offered as part of your financial aid award, is paid directly to the student and does not credit to your account.

In addition to direct (billed) expenses, it's important to factor in other types of expenses that contribute to the overall cost of attending college. Carlow estimates these annual costs as follows:

+Books and Supplies: \$1,400 +Transportation: \$700 +Miscellaneous Expenses: \$1,300



CARLOW

U N I V E R S I T Y

Office of Admissions
3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.578.6059 | 800.333.2275 | carlow.edu

