

Graduate Programs in **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

— ADMISSION PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS PATHWAYS —

1. Admissions Prerequisites for All Applicants

- a. Completion of BS/BA degree
- b. Pre-requisite courses: All pre-requisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C or higher and with a combined GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale (Carlow University equivalent courses in parentheses)
 - i. Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 205) 4 CR
 - ii. Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 206) 4 CR
 - iii. Medical Terminology (HIM 102) 1 CR
 - iv. Psychology - Developmental (PY 112) 3 CR
 - v. Abnormal Psychology (PY 209) 3 CR
 - vi. Statistics or Research (MAT 115 / PY 290) 3 CR
 - vii. Social Science (SO 201; HSC 200; HSC 201) 3 CR
- c. Transfer credits: Carlow OT program does not accept any transfer coursework or work experience as credit in the program.

2. OTCAS Application: Application fee is required. Application assistance is available from Customer Service at otcasinfo@otcas.org.

- a. **Submit a complete OTCAS application to the Carlow MSOT or OTD program using the OTCAS website:** <https://otcas.liasoncas.com/>
- b. Applicants who are Carlow University alumni or degree seeking students are allowed to bypass the centralized application process and apply directly to Carlow graduate OT program. See Early Admissions decision statement below.
- c. **The OTCAS application includes:**
 - i. A personal statement, DEI essay, and resume.
 - ii. References: three letters of reference (one from an OT)
 - iii. Observation Hours: 20 hours
 - iv. Submit documentation on official letterhead or by direct email from a registered OT, of 20 hours of OT volunteer experience completed in at least two settings within the last 5 years. Applicants may receive some credit from employment in an occupational therapy setting with approval from the OT program.
- d. **Addendum Updated on Carlow OT Website (August 2021):** In order to best accommodate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the OT department will accept any service, volunteer, and/or observation experiences as fulfilling the required 20 observation hours. We understand traditional clinical sites are still not completely open to students; however, there are many social justice organizations that still need our help. Consider volunteering at a local agency that serves the needs of our citizens. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly.
- e. Application process assistance is available from Customer Service at otcasinfo@otcas.org.

3. Admissions Deadlines: Applications are accepted annually upon the opening of the OTCAS cycle (usually July) through December 1 each year. Admissions is a rolling process and will begin in July and continue until the class is filled.

- a. **Early Admissions Decision:** Application Deadline September 15. For those students who are degree seeking undergraduates or alum of Carlow, you are eligible to apply Early Decision directly to the Occupational Therapy program and bypass the centralized application system. If you have met the

minimum requirements, you will be granted an automatic interview and your application will be evaluated in early fall for provisional admission pending completion of all required elements and final candidacy status granted to the University by ACOTE in April of 2022.

- b. **General Admissions Decision:** Application Deadline December 1. Applicants submitting complete and qualified applications by December 1, and any applicants who submitted an application for early admissions decision but are not yet accepted, can qualify for an interview if they meet minimum admissions requirements. Applications received on or by December 1 will be given preference; however, admissions is a rolling process and will continue until the class is filled.
4. **Interview:** Students selected for a personal interview will find the department uses a holistic process that provides equal opportunity to reflect on academic performance, personal attributes, and lived experience in anticipation of beginning graduate level study. During the interview, selected applicants will be asked to discuss their submitted personal statement.

At the completion of the application process, students will be notified of their admission status in writing and, if accepted, must submit a written acceptance and pay the accompanying fee.

Accreditation Status

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) requires that full candidacy status be granted prior to admission of students. Carlow will complete this process in Spring of 2022 and therefore will offer eligible students provisional admission to our program. This means the student has met all the requirements and is offered admission pending full ACOTE review and the granting of candidacy status. Accreditation is a multi-step process that is used throughout OT education and healthcare professional programs. Carlow has a strong foundation in accredited graduate health science programs including Masters and Doctorate degrees in Nursing. In addition, Carlow is committed to the health sciences and is currently developing additional new graduate programs in PA, SLP, and PT. We are confident in our ability to meet the required standards for educational excellence and look forward to answering any questions you might have with regard to this process.

The Master of Science and entry-level Doctorate of Occupational Therapy programs are in the process to attain full-accreditation status with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Information regarding the program accreditation process and Carlow University's current status can be obtained by contacting ACOTE c/o AOTA at (301) 652-AOTA or online at www.acoteonline.org. ACOTE is located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929.