



Pittsburgh has been coined the “**City of Bridges**” because of the 446 bridges within its limits. The terrain of the city is made up of varying environments including valleys, hills, and river plains. The bridges serve to connect the various contexts of the city and provide access between the different environments and communities. Carlow University, rooted in the Catholic faith and founded by the Sisters of Mercy, is committed to creating a just world, where everyone has access to what they need and our community is free from inequalities. In action, mercy requires the transformation of environmental barriers into opportunities in order to promote access and allow everyone to meaningfully engage in the world. The OT curriculum design, aligned with Catholic intellectual tradition and Mercy values, has an overarching mission of occupational justice, a foundation in health and wellbeing, and threads that support the structure and the path to transformational learning. The bridge image conveys a journey of overcoming barriers to promote full participation and represents a path where one moves from old self to new self, writing the next chapter in the story of life. It is critical that students bridge classroom concepts to clinical practice and Mercy values to their civic engagement as socially-responsible citizens. Our program is alive with transformative learning experiences in the “**City of Bridges**” as we explore the world around us and seek to be innovative pathfinders for occupational justice, access, and opportunity for

all people, communities, and populations. The educational threads that are embedded throughout the program to support occupational justice, health and wellbeing, and the values of the Sisters of Mercy, are **professional identity, interprofessional practice, evidence-based practice, innovation/technology, and environment/community.**

The Carlow Difference is student focused, interprofessional, and service driven. We host small class sizes, in face to face, hands-on learning. In the OTD program, students are required to take 2 courses online, in order to accommodate the off campus Doctoral Capstone experience.

Accreditation Status: The Carlow University entry-level occupational therapy master’s degree program and entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program are FULLY accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE’s telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-6611, and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.