

# Graduate Programs in **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

## — ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS —

This fact sheet offers guidance on collecting all documents required for application to the Carlow University Occupational Therapy programs (MSOT or OTD). Current Carlow undergraduate degree-seeking students as well as Carlow alumni may choose to apply through the Carlow website. All other students must apply via the OT centralized application system ([OTCAS](#)). For assistance, please contact the OT Program Office by email: [empark@carlow.edu](mailto:empark@carlow.edu) or by phone: +1 (412) 578-6291.

*Note that if you are a Carlow Undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science student, you may apply for conditional acceptance into the graduate OT programs as early as your first semester. Please see the BSHS Pre-OT to MSOT/OTD Admissions Fact Sheet for more details.*

### Steps to apply

1. **Bachelor degree** from a regionally accredited college or university or a plan to complete one prior to enrollment. While we do not require any specific discipline, undergraduate students often major in areas such as health science, exercise science, or psychology in preparation for the MSOT or OTD.
2. Undergraduate degrees must be completed with a **cumulative GPA of 3.0**.
3. Candidates must have a minimum grade of **"C"** in all **prerequisite courses**. Candidates must have completed the prerequisites within the last 10 years. We accept applications with prerequisites still in progress if we receive official transcripts showing successful completion ("C" or better) prior to program matriculation. For prerequisites taken during the Spring or Fall of 2020 (semesters affected by COVID-19) a grade of "Satisfactory" or "Pass" will be accepted.
4. **Resume**. One page in length.
5. **Personal statement** responding to the following prompt: Explain why you selected occupational therapy as a career and how an occupational therapy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals. Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals. The statement should be one page maximum.
6. **Essay** on the following topic: What does equity and inclusion mean to you? The essay should be no more than 500 words in length.
7. **Three letters of reference** (one from an occupational therapist) uploaded through OTCAS or through the Carlow University application portal.
8. **20 observation hours**. Submit documentation from a registered OT on official letterhead via OTCAS or by direct email to [admissions@carlow.edu](mailto:admissions@carlow.edu) of 20 hours of OT observation, volunteer, or work experience, completed in at least two settings within the last five years.

### Admission deadlines

**Carlow UG/Alumn:** Sept. 15  
**General:** Dec. 1

### Prerequisite Courses

\*denotes equivalent Carlow course

**Anatomy and Physiology I** (4 CR)  
\*BIO 205

**Anatomy and Physiology II** (4 CR)  
\*BIO 206

**Medical Terminology** (1 CR)  
\*HIM 102

**Psychology – Developmental** (3 CR)  
\*PY 112

**Abnormal Psychology** (3 CR)  
\*PY 209

**Statistics or Research** (3 CR)  
\*MAT 115 / PY 290

**Social Science** (3 CR)  
\*SO 102 or higher;  
HSC 200; HSC 201

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](http://www.acoteonline.org). ACOTE is located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929.