UPMC Schools of Nursing and Carlow University Partner to Offer Seamless Transition to BSN

Students in UPMC’s RN diploma programs receive joint admission to Carlow’s RN-BSN program.

Carlow University and the UPMC Schools of Nursing have reached agreement to enable students who will receive their diploma in nursing at one of UPMC’s three nursing schools to continue their education by seamlessly transferring into Carlow University’s Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) program.

“Through its Department of Nursing, Carlow University has made a strong commitment to contribute to both the educational and health care needs in our region,” said Deanne D’Emilio, JD, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Carlow University. “It starts with graduating students with skill sets that enable them to address current nursing needs, but also supplies them with the knowledge and abilities to adapt to future needs as nursing advances. We are honored to partner with UPMC to expand educational options for their students.”

Under the terms of the agreement, UPMC School of Nursing students are simultaneously admitted into the RN-BSN program at Carlow. These students are guaranteed admission and will enter into the RN-BSN program at Carlow provided they have completed their RN diploma program with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and have successfully passed the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX). Passing the NCLEX enables students to obtain their Pennsylvania RN license.

“This agreement provides a pathway for our students to further their education,” said Linda Kmetz, PhD, RN, executive director of UPMC Schools of Nursing, and director of UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing. “Together, we are helping to ensure that future graduates have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in our diverse and changing world.”

To be eligible for the Joint Admission Program, students must complete their joint admission application form provided by UPMC Schools of Nursing, which include Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, and St. Margaret School of Nursing.

The Joint Admission Program is open to:

1. Applicants to UPMC Schools of Nursing who are first-time, matriculated freshman, or
2. Returning adult students to UPMC Schools of Nursing, or
3. Transfer students to UPMC Schools of Nursing
4. Any currently matriculated UPMC Schools of Nursing student who applies to the Joint Admission Program prior to completion of the RN diploma
5. All students must meet Carlow University’s admission requirements and the RN-BSN program admission requirements as stated in Carlow’s course catalog. Carlow has sole discretion in admissions decisions.

As part of the agreement, Carlow University will provide the following for all students given joint admission:
1. Carlow will waive the application fee for all UPMC Schools of Nursing students who apply for Joint Admission.

2. Carlow will outline for UPMC School of Nursing students the potential option for earning a Master of Science in Nursing in an accredited format with up to 12 graduate credits being earned while in Carlow’s undergraduate RN-BSN program.

3. Carlow agrees to provide, as needed, information sessions with faculty and staff of UPMC Schools of Nursing who will be involved in consulting and advising students enrolled in the Joint Admission Program.

4. Carlow’s Transfer Guide for UPMC Schools of Nursing students will be updated periodically. The guide will outline course equivalencies for required and recommended courses.

5. The Transfer Guide will be made accessible for all students on the Carlow University website.

6. Students admitted under the provisions of the Joint Admission Program will be given a Carlow University ID for use in Carlow facilities.

The partnership will go into effect in the fall 2015. More information about the arrangements is available through transfer counselors at each institution.

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**About Carlow University**
Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Carlow University was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1929. Offering both undergraduate and graduate programs, Carlow University is a comprehensive master’s institution dedicated to learner-centered education at the collegiate levels and at the elementary school level in the Campus School of Carlow University.

**About UPMC**
A world-renowned health care provider and insurer, Pittsburgh-based UPMC is inventing new models of accountable, cost-effective, patient-centered care. It provides more than $888 million a year in benefits to its communities, including more care to the region’s most vulnerable citizens than any other health care institution. The largest nongovernmental employer in Pennsylvania, UPMC integrates more than 60,000 employees, more than 20 hospitals, more than 500 doctors’ offices and outpatient sites, a more than 2.5-million-member health insurance division, and international and commercial operations. Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC ranks No. 12 in the prestigious *U.S. News & World Report* annual Honor Roll of America’s Best Hospitals – and No. 1 in Pennsylvania. For more information, go to UPMC.com.