

Is Carlow's PA Program still accredited?

Yes. Probation is an active accreditation status, and those entering a program on probation are entering an accredited program.

If I'm a current student in the Carlow PA Program (Class of 2025 or Class of 2026), will I graduate from an accredited program and be able to take the PANCE?

Yes. ARC-PA defines a student as graduating from an accredited program if the program was accredited at the time of matriculation.

If I join the Carlow PA program and start in August 2025 (Class of 2027), will I graduate from an accredited program and be able to take the PANCE?

Yes. ARC-PA defines a student as graduating from an accredited program if the program was accredited at the time of matriculation. Carlow is still an accredited PA program.

What happens if in September 2026 Carlow PA does not come off probation? Will I still graduate and be able to take the PANCE?

Yes. ARC-PA defines a student as graduating from an accredited program if the program was accredited at the time of matriculation. Probation is still considered to be an active accreditation status. All students matriculating under this status would be considered to be graduates of an accredited program upon program completion and eligible to take the NCCPA PANCE exam for certification. While the Carlow PA program fully intends to be accredited without probation in September 2026, should ARC-PA extend Carlow PA program's probationary period, the program would continue to follow their recommendations for improvement and ensuring student success.

Why is Carlow University PA on probation?

The ARC-PA provides an overview to ensure students are best prepared for clinical practice. This temporary status allows us time to make program improvements, and to make sure that we are doing things in alignment with expectations of the ARC-PA. Specific to Carlow, the primary citations received concerned the number of faculty and staff we had at the time of the site visit and the self-assessment process of the program. Since our site visit in May 2024, we have hired two full time faculty members and will be adding an additional administrative support staff member. Carlow also allocated additional time for full time faculty members to dedicate to the self-assessment, enabling a more robust self-assessment process. In addition, the program has invested in additional software and other resources to help improve our self-assessment process. Carlow University has started to implement the necessary improvements to ensure compliance with the ARC-PA standards.

Will the accreditation action affect my ability to obtain employment?

No. Employers look for board-certified PAs and rely heavily on recommendations and references from the program's faculty and preceptors. The Carlow PA Program maintains strong relationships with its clinical partners and preceptors, who provide excellent training. Carlow University's first graduating PA class in August 2024 has already experienced excellent job placement. The program is committed to supporting its students in providing high-quality educational experiences and facilitating job placement post-graduation.

Will I be able to obtain a state license to practice?

Yes. PA licensure requirements vary by state, but most states are congruent on graduating from an accredited program. For example, Pennsylvania licensure states that one must "have graduated from an accredited program," pass the licensure exam, and be certified by NCCPA. The definition of "graduate from an accredited program" will apply to students who matriculate to the program when it is fully accredited. The program remains fully accredited, even with a probational status.

Is Carlow University accredited overall?

Yes. Carlow University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.