



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon successful completion of the following criteria, Rio Grande Valley College will grant an Associate of Applied Science Degree with major in Physical Therapist Assistant:

- **Credit Courses** - Students are required to complete all program general education and technical coursework with a minimum grade of “C” for each course.
- **Clinical Education** - Students are required to pass all clinical education courses.
- **Professional Behaviors** - Students must be assessed at “Entry-Level” for all ten Professional Behaviors by program faculty.
- Students must pass one of the seven benchmark exams offered during the final semester of the program. They will complete one practice exam in the penultimate semester which will not count toward the graduation requirement. Each of the benchmark exams are a comprehensive practice test for PTA’s.

NPTE BENCHMARK EXAM POLICY

To graduate from the PTA program, students must pass at least one comprehensive benchmark exam. Eight benchmark exams will be administered during the penultimate and final semesters. Two exams will be the Academic Online Advantage through ScoreBuilders, and a third through ScoreBuilders’ Student Online Advantage Exam. Another two exams will be given using the Academic Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT) through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Students will also take a benchmark through Final Frontier Integrated Curriculum Platform, and another through the TrueLearn Assessment Platform. Lastly, the eighth exam will be taken through PTA Final Exam Platform. All benchmark exams will be purchased by the college and conducted in a proctored environment.

The first benchmark through Insight Individual Exam will be given at the end of the penultimate semester during the PTHA 2115 Professional Issues course. This exam helps students gauge their progress toward NPTE readiness. Failing to achieve the minimum score on this first benchmark will not affect the PTHA 2115 course grade. The remaining benchmarks will be administered during the PTHA 2210 Seminar course.

Students must achieve a minimum score of 55% on at least one benchmark or successfully achieving increasingly better scores on the exams to demonstrate progress toward NPTE-PTA readiness. Successfully meeting this requirement makes students eligible for graduation and participation in the graduation ceremonies. If a student fails to meet the 55% minimum score, they will not graduate and will receive an incomplete for PTHA 2210 Seminar.

Students who do not meet the required score must purchase an additional two PEAT exams (Individual PEAT) from the FSBPT. The first exam must be taken within one month of the last

The Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Rio Grande Valley College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 956-781-6800 x 515 or email mgatling@rgvcollege.edu.



unsuccessful benchmark attempt. Students must undergo remediation before taking the first Individual PEAT exam. Remediation may include tutoring with core faculty, practicing in open labs with peers and/or faculty, and content review through programs such as ScoreBuilders or Therapy-Ed.

If the student fails the first Individual PEAT exam, they must continue mandatory remediation and complete an online NPTE content review course with ScoreBuilders or Therapy-Ed before attempting the final Individual PEAT exam. Passing either of these two Individual PEAT exams will allow the student to receive a grade for the Seminar course and graduate with their cohort, making them eligible to take the October NPTE and officially participate in the next RGV College graduation ceremony.

While students are undergoing remediation before taking the final Individual PEAT exam, they will be placed on a Leave of Absence (LOA) from the PTA Program at RGV College. The LOA will end when they return to take the final Individual PEAT exam. Failure of the final Individual PEAT will result in the student being withdrawn from the PTA program and receiving a failing grade in PTHA 2210 Seminar. The student will have the opportunity to be readmitted to the PTA Program as per the readmission policy. If readmitted, they will only need to repeat the PTHA 2210 Seminar course, including the benchmark exams. While waiting for the PTHA 2210 Seminar to begin, students will be encouraged to audit classes with a lab portion to stay current with their skills. Students may incur additional costs if re-admitted.

If the student successfully achieves the minimum score of 55% on one of the three benchmarks in the repeat PTHA 2210 Seminar, they will receive a passing grade for the course and will graduate as a member of the next Cohort, eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony and register for the NPTE-PTA exam.

If a student fails the benchmarks offered in the repeat PTHA 2210 Seminar, they will receive a failing grade and will be processed for withdrawal from the PTA Program without the opportunity for readmission as readmissions can only occur one time per program policy