



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM PTA PROGRAM ADMISSIONS POLICIES

RGV College accepts a maximum of 17 students per year. Prospective student information materials are available on the college website, email, social media, program flyers, in person from the admissions representatives or from PTA program faculty. Prospective candidate selection is based on a point system that includes points earned for completion of prerequisites, TEAS scores and bonus points for the highest degree achieved, volunteer/work hours completed and completion of A & P II. Following the initial tallying of points, prospective students will have 2 criteria remaining in the process for admissions. Up to 25 students will be offered to submit to a PTA candidate interview as well as attend a mandatory Program Success Seminar also referred as Seminar. Points for the grades achieved in the Seminar are as follows: Prospective students who receive an “A” will be given 10 points; those who receive a “B” will be given 6 points. Candidates receiving a “C” will not receive any points. Finally, those candidates who fail Seminar will not be eligible to continue in the process for admission to the current cohort. They may reapply.

The candidate interviews will be offered to the same group attending the Seminar with interviewers consisting of a combination of PTA faculty, college administrators and invited physical therapists and physical therapist assistants from the community. The interview will be scored through a rubric, with the mean scores from all interviewers who utilize prepared questions for the interview. Following these 2 final steps, up to 17 students will be offered conditional acceptance into the PTA program.

The PTA Program abides by all RGV College policies and procedures related to admissions, including but not limited to due process and non-discrimination:

Admission criteria for the PTA program are as follows:

1. Attend one mandatory PTA Program Information Session during the enrollment period. Information sessions are held on campus with the program director. All prospective applicants attending an information session are provided with a packet which contains information for financial aid, program tuition and fees, Essential Function for PTA's, Curriculum Degree Plan, PTA application, pre-requisites, additional out-of-pocket expenses, and admission documentation requirements.
2. Admission to Rio Grande Valley College
3. Completion of all General Education requirements (See prerequisite tab for a list of required courses for admission into the program)
4. Pass and Schedule Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS); earn a composite score of $\geq 60\%$ *
5. High school diploma or GED
6. 40 hours of volunteer work, observation or work experience in a physical therapy department (recommended, but not required)
7. Prerequisite courses must be completed before consideration for admission into the technical portion of the PTA program.
8. Candidate Interview – Up to 25 candidate who rank the highest after the initial tallying of points who meet all program requirements are invited for the interview.
9. Program Success Seminar is mandatory for all candidates who are invited for the interview. -Seminar must be passed to remain eligible for the current application cohort. Candidates are welcome to reapply.

(*Minimum acceptable TEAS composite score may be decreased due to the applicant pool)

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.



PTA PROGRAM ADMISSIONS POLICIES

1. PTA Program applications will be accepted from January to September to be considered for that current year's cohort. Contact an RGV College Admissions Representative regarding application deadlines.
2. Prospective students are required to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) test and have a minimum or $\geq 60\%$ of composite score. (Composite score may be decreased due to the applicant pool).
3. The PTA Program selection process is based on a Point System evaluation. Points are awarded for the following selection criteria: GPA of PTA Program prerequisite courses, TEAS Exam scores, Program Success Seminar, interview scores and bonus points (volunteer/work experience, degrees conferred).
4. Qualified applicants are numerically ranked based on the number of acceptance points earned, and are either accepted, placed on an alternate list, or not accepted. (Up to 25 selected for interview)
5. The number of prospective candidates accepted annually is limited to 17; not all qualified applicants will be admitted. The final number will be based on pool of applicants and point scoring.
6. Should any of the 17 candidates offered admission declines, the offer of admission will be extended to the next highest ranking candidate list.

SCORING RUBRIC FOR ADMISSION - PRIOR TO INTERVIEW

Selection Criteria & Formula	Maximum Points	A Points	B Points	C Points
TEAS Total Composite Score >70%	30			
TEAS Total Composite Score >60%	20			
TEAS Math Score >60%	5			
Required Prerequisite Courses:				
Anatomy & Physiology I w/ Lab		4	3	2
English Composition		4	3	2
Public Speaking or Communications		4	3	2
General Psychology of Lifespan		4	3	2

BONUS POINTS

Additional Items Earning Bonus Points*	Other Points	A Points	B Points	C Points
		4	3	2
Volunteer Hours - Minimum of 40	4			
Completed master's degree	5			
Completed baccalaureate Degree	4			
Completed associate degree	3			
Interview***	40			
Program Success Seminar		10	6	0

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* There will not be an accumulation of points for each degree. Points will be given to the highest degree obtained.

**A&P II is NOT required for admission, but course MUST be taken during the 1st Semester of technical courses of the program if not already completed at the application deadline.

***Top earning point applicants will be selected for a PTA Program Interview. Only 17 applicants with the highest number of accumulated points and who have satisfied all program requirements will be offered conditional acceptance into the program. Alternates selected will only be valid for the current application year. If an alternate does not start for the accepted year, they will need to reapply during the new enrollment period with no guarantee of acceptance.

Max Points Earned:

TEAS + Prerequisites + Interview + Seminar = 101

Max Bonus Points = 13

Max Points for Admission = 114