



There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations:

1. Attend class approximately 10-25 hours a week or perform 40 hours a week of clinical education, depending on the stage of the program curriculum.
2. Complete all assignments on time.
3. Participate in classroom discussions.
4. Perform or instruct others in the following procedures (learned in class) in a timely manner: transfers, gait training, physical agents, activities of daily living, therapeutic exercises or activities, and data collection procedures.
5. Use sound judgment and safety precautions (exposure to blood borne pathogens and/or infectious disease may occur as part of the educational experience). Students are trained in safety/infection control and are expected to follow these guidelines to avoid contracting or transmitting disease.
6. Meet class standards for successful course completion.
7. Use critical thinking when making decisions.
8. Follow standards stated in PTA Program Policy and Procedure Manual and the PTA Program Clinical Education Handbook.
9. Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
10. Maintain classroom, work area, equipment, supplies, personal appearance and hygiene conducive to a professional setting as appropriate.
11. Behave in a competent, professional manner.

Physical requirements for the PTA Program include the need to occasionally, frequently or continually:

1. Sit 2-5 hours per day with lecture blocks up to 3 hours
2. Stand 1-6 hours with lab time blocks up to 3 hours
3. Lift up to 60 pounds
4. Push/pull up to 50 pounds of force exerted at waist level
5. Squat or stoop
6. Use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to assess physiological status of an
7. Demonstrate good standing and unsupported sitting balance
8. Demonstrate good finger dexterity
9. Coordinate verbal and manual instructions
10. Communicate effectively with a variety of people through written, verbal and nonverbal methods
11. Use hands repetitively
12. Shift weight in sitting or standing
13. Demonstrate the ability to use a firm grasp while using physical therapy equipment and while performing physical therapy interventions
14. Reach above shoulder level
15. Kneel, kneel-stand, and half kneel
16. Use equipment that emits electrical, ultrasonic, and thermal energy
17. Physically move and transfer patients

Students who have concerns about the ability to perform any of these functions should contact the PTA Program Director at 956-781-6800. Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations or information by calling the Compliance Director at 956-781-6800 extension 5615. Please refer to the following page regarding the RGV College Statements of Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity for all applicants and students.

Graduation from a physical therapist [assistant] education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states. Rio Grande Valley College is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist assistant education program from CAPTE. On June 8, 2022, the program submitted an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the technical phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in technical courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure 2021.12.3 55 Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted accreditation.

Statement of Nondiscrimination/ Equal Opportunity Statement

RGV College provides equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, national origin, age, or disability to all academic and employment applicants. RGV College conforms to all applicable federal and state laws, rules, guidelines and regulations and provides equal employment and employee relations. In addition, discrimination in employment based on familial status or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Rio Grande Valley College admits students of any race, color, sex, and national or ethnic origin. Rio Grande Valley College does not discriminate in any way with respect to: employment of faculty and staff, student rights or privileges, admission policies, awarding of scholarships or other financial assistance, educational policies, use of the school's facilities, or any other regular or extracurricular activity.

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