



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

PTA PROGRAM ADMISSIONS POLICIES

RGV College accepts a maximum of 16 students each year into the PTA Program. 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, bonus points for the highest degree achieved, volunteer/work hours completed and completion of A & P II.

Based on this point scoring system, the top students will be asked to submit to an admissions interview with interviewers consisting of a combination of PTA faculty, college administrators and invited physical therapists from the community. The interview will be scored through a rubric, with the mean scores from all interviewers used the admissions points for the interview. Following, interviews, the top 16 students will be offered acceptance into the program.

The PTA Program abides by all RGVC 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, one-on-one, in-person, via phone, or Zoom Meeting with the program director. All prospective applicants attending an information session are provided 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. Zoom Meeting information session attendees, will receive the PTA Program packet via email.
2. Admission to Rio Grande Valley College
3. Completion of PTA Program Application
4. Completion of all General Education requirements (See prerequisite tab for a list of required courses for admission into the program)
5. Pay and Schedule Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS); earn a composite score of $\geq 60\%$ *
- *Minimum acceptable composite score may be decreased due to the applicant pool
6. High school diploma or GED
7. 40 hours of volunteer, observation or work experience in a physical therapy department (recommended, but not required)
8. Prerequisite courses must be completed before consideration for admission into the technical portion of the PTA program.

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.



9. Faculty Interview - Only candidates meeting all program requirements are invited for a faculty interview

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1. PTA Program applications will be accepted from January to July to be considered for that current year's cohort. Contact an RGV College Admissions Representative for 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, 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. (25 selected for interview)
5. The number of prospective accepted annually is limited to 16; 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 16 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% | 60 | | | |
| TEAS Total Composite Score >60% | 40 | | | |
| <u>Prerequisite:</u> Anatomy & Physiology I w/ Lab* | | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| <u>Prerequisite:</u> English Composition* | | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| <u>Prerequisite:</u> Public Speaking* Communications | | 4 | 3 | 2 |

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| | | | | |
|--|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Prerequisite: General Psychology* | | 4 | 3 | 2 |
|--|--|----------|----------|----------|

***All items indicated by asterisk (*) are required prerequisites for admission into the PTA Program**

APPLICABLE BONUS POINTS

| Additional Items Earning Bonus Points | Other Points | A Points | B Points | C Points |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anatomy & Physiology II w/ Lab** | | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Volunteer Hours - Minimum of 40 | 4 | | | |
| Completed Master's Degree | 5 | | | |
| Completed Baccalaureate Degree | 4 | | | |
| Completed Associate's Degree | 3 | | | |
| Interview* is required for Program Admission | 20* | | | |

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

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

Top earning point applicants will be selected for a PTA Program Interview. Only 16 applicants with the highest number of accumulated points and who have satisfied all program requirements will be offered 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.

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Rio Grande Valley
College

Max Points Earned:

TEAS + Prerequisites + Interview = 96

Max Bonus Points = 13

Max Points for Admission = 109

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