



Graduation Criteria

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.
- Students must be assessed at “Entry-Level” for all ten Professional Behaviors by program faculty.
- Students must pass the Practice Exam and Assessment School (PEAT) which is a comprehensive practice test for PTA’s. The first PEAT will be offered at the end of Practicum III in the last semester and the second PEAT will be taken in the last week of the semester.

PEAT Exam Policy

Passing a comprehensive mock licensure exam is required for program graduation. Students will take 2 PEAT exams (Academic PEAT purchased by the program) during the last semester in PTHA 2210 Seminar in a proctored environment, with the required passing score being 600. Should a student fail both of these exams, they will be given an opportunity to purchase another 2 PEAT Exams (Individual PEAT) from FABPT and undergo remediation prior to the repeat of the third PEAT exam. Remediation will take place in different forms that may include but not limited to tutoring with core faculty, practicing in open lab with peers and/or faculty, and review through a program such as Score Builders. The third PEAT Exam must be taken within one month of failing the second exam. Should the student fail that exam, they will continue with remediation as above and be required to take the fourth PEAT Exam, they will be a graduate from the college as of that date, eligible to take the October NPTE and can officially participate in the December graduation of the same cohort.

Should the student fail the fourth PEAT Exam, students will receive an incomplete grade for the course and follow the program’s readmission policy. They will only be required to repeat the PTHA 2210 Seminar course, including the PEAT Exams. While awaiting PTHA 2210 Seminar to begin, students will be encouraged to “audit” classes with a lab portion to remain up-to-date in their skills.

Effective November 8, 2022, Rio Grande Valley College has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone: 703-706- 3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 956-781-6800 x 515 or email physicaltherapy@rgvcollege.edu.

Candidate for Accreditation is an accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure that the program will be granted Initial Accreditation.