



PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

PTA PROGRAM ADMISSION 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 or in person from the admissions counselors, or from PTA program faculty. Prospective candidate selection is based on a point system that includes points given for prerequisites by grades earned and the TEAS score, bonus points for the highest degree achieved, volunteer/work hours completed and completion of A & P II. Based on program requirements and the point scoring system, top students will be scheduled for an interview consisting of a combination of PTA faculty, Administrators and Community Therapists. Following the 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
2. Admission to Rio Grande Valley College
3. Completion of PTA Program Application
4. Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with applicable program scoring requirements
5. High school diploma or GED
6. 40 hours of volunteer, observation or work experience in a physical therapy department (recommended, but not required)
7. Completion of prerequisite courses, are recommended prior to an applicant being considered for admission into the technical portion of the PTA program. Applicants “currently enrolled” in prerequisite courses pending semester or course completion may be approved to complete the TEAS Entrance Examination at the discretion of the program director. Admission representatives may provide the program director with applicant documentation indicating “current enrollment” status from the college or university for consideration for TEAS testing.
8. Faculty Interview**

*Composite score may be decreased due to the applicant pool.

**Applicant interviews will be set up based on the completion of requirements and program point system

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ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

RGV College accepts a maximum of 16 students each year into the PTA Program. Prospective student information materials are available on the college website or in person from the admissions counselors, or from PTA program faculty. The following are requirements for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA). Program requirements must be fulfilled and evidence of their completion must be submitted by the application deadline. Failure to submit evidence fulfilling ALL admission requirements may impact the applicant being considered for admission.

Admissions requirement for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program are as follow:

- Attend one mandatory PTA Program information session discussing specific program policies and requirements held during the application period.
- Submit a Physical Therapy Assistant Program Application for Admissions to the Admissions Department by the application deadline. Applications are available at www.rgvcollege.edu.
Admission to Rio Grande Valley College
- Send official transcripts of completed and transferrable prerequisite courses
- Submit to the RGV College' Registrar's Office official transcripts from all college/universities attended with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. No academic course with a grade below "C" is accepted for the PTA program. Academic courses include general courses such as composition and written communication, social, behavioral and biological sciences, humanities, and visual arts. All science general education courses must have been completed within five years of application deadline.
- Schedule and sit for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) and may earn an overall composite score greater than or equal to 60%. Composite score may be decreased pending overall applicant pool.

The proctored TEAS measures basic essential skills in the academic content area domains of reading, mathematics, science, English and language usage. The test is intended for use primarily with secondary

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level education program applicant populations. The objectives assessed are those which college educators deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry-level skills and abilities of program applicants. The TEAS is a 170-item, four options, multiple-choice examination offered in computer-administered formats. To prepare in an organized and efficient manner, it is important to know what to expect from a proctored examination.

The table below lists the number of items and time limits allotted for each section of the TEAS examinations:

Content Area	Number of Items	Time Limit
Reading	48	58 minutes
Mathematics	34	51 minutes
Science	54	66 minutes
English and Language Usage	34	34 minutes
TOTAL	170	209 minutes

Below you may review content and sub-content areas that may be found on the TEAS testing areas:

Content & Sub-content Area	Number of Scored Items	Percent of Test Items
Reading	42	28
• Paragraph and Passage Comprehension	19	12.7
• Informational Source Comprehension	23	15.3
Mathematics	30	20
• Numbers and Operations	19	12.7
• Measurement	4	2.7
• Data Interpretation	3	2
• Algebraic Applications	4	2.7
Science	48	32
• Human Body Science	11	7.3
• Life Science	15	10
• Earth and Physical Science	14	9.3
• Scientific Reasoning	8	5.3
English and Language Usage	30	20
• Grammar and Word Meanings in Context	15	10

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• Spelling and Punctuation	9	6.0
• Structure	6	4.0

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CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

A criminal background check is a requirement for admission to the PTA Program. The process of verifying a prospective student's criminal background shall be initiated by the Office of Admissions. Applicants, who fail to disclose known criminal history, may cause future ineligibility to the PTA Program. The student may be conditionally accepted in to the PTA Program at RGV College, pending the review of criminal background check results. Clinical affiliations have the right to establish criteria that would exclude a student from placement at their facility.

- a. Criminal background checks will be conducted and will include: county criminal record search, state record search, national criminal database. Criminal background checks may review a person's criminal history for seven (7) years back from the date of application to the program. Background checks will be obtained from Identigo. Please be advised that upon graduation, employers and licensing bodies may require state and federal background checks that allows for more rigorous review of legal documents which may impact licensure and/or employment. The student shall bear the cost of the pre-screening requirements and the process will require the use of an online vendor.
- b. If the student's record is not clear and/or the affiliation denies access to their clinical facilities(s), then the prospective student may be denied continued admission and be terminated from the PTA Program. RGV College will not re-locate or provide alternative sites for clinical rotations for students ineligible to attend clinical rotations at specified sites with mandatory clear background check verification and submission of report.
- c. The student has the right to appeal. The appeal would allow students to obtain documentation that would demonstrate that their record is clear. Students shall notify the PTA Department within 72 hours of termination from the program of their intent to appeal. In the event that a student feels that an error has been made in the reporting of the criminal background check, it is the student's responsibility to contact the external vendor for a verification of the background check at the student's own expense. Appeals shall be submitted to the Program Director of the PTA program with all supporting documentation in a timely manner for consideration. Students may be considered for admissions in a future class.

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The initial background check satisfies this requirement during continuous matriculation through the program. If a current student is charged with a crime, while enrolled in the program, the student shall notify the Program Director immediately.

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