

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: Admissions criteria for graduate programs

13.0301.00 *Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction*

1. Earned master's degree from a regionally accredited United States institution or a recognized international equivalent with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on all graduate work.
2. Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) general test.
3. Documentation of five years of experience in education or related field, of which three years must be classroom teaching experience.
4. Submission of personal statement describing goals, experiences, scholarly accomplishments, reasons for obtaining this degree, and possible research questions or topics of interest.
5. Submission of resume.
6. Submission of three professional letters of recommendation from individuals with first-hand knowledge of applicant's professional qualities and scholarly potential with reference forms.

13.0401.00 *Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership*

1. Earned master's degree in Education or related field with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional sources.
3. Submission of resume showing professional presentations, publications, grants, recognitions (e.g., honors and awards for leadership, teaching, academics), five years full-time leadership, supervisory experiences or classroom experience (college/university level, school/district, business, military, regional, state-level, international, other) leadership activity in community organizations, professional associations, or community service.
4. Submission of personal statement, maximum of five pages double spaced, including the following headings: Purpose for Pursuing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership; Description of Professional Goals; and Commitment and Dedication.
5. Submission of writing sample following the guideline provided by the program.
6. Participation of finalists in the program's Assessment Center, a daylong session to evaluate the applicant's verbal, written, and analytical skills.

51.2310.00 *Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Counseling*

1. Earned master's degree from an accredited institution in a field related to rehabilitation counseling with a minimum graduate GPA of 3.25.
2. GRE general test.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of personal statement.

5. Documentation of two years of professional experience with people with disabilities.
6. Personal interview.

52.0101.00 *Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration*

1. Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or GRE general test with scores submitted by February 1st for admission the following Fall.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation from academic sources.
3. Submission of a personal statement describing goals, experiences, scholarly accomplishments, reasons for obtaining the degree, and possible research questions or topics of interest.
4. Submission of resume or curriculum vitae.

09.0100.00 *Master of Arts in Communication*

1. GRE general test.
2. Bachelor's degree in Communication or a bachelor's degree in business or social science or related field required.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of 500-word essay on personal goals related to degree.

11.0401.00 *Master of Science in Information Technology*

1. Bachelor's degree in computer science or a bachelor's degree in another field and courses and/or experience that prepare the applicant for graduate work in computer science or information technology.
2. Submission of letter of intent.
3. Submission of resume.

11.0701.00 *Master of Science in Computer Science*

1. GRE general test.
2. Bachelor's degree in computer science or a bachelor's degree in another field and courses and/or experience that prepare the applicant for graduate work in computer science.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of resume.

13.0201.00 *Master of Education in Bilingual Education*

1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 overall.
2. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
3. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of personal statement essay in English and Spanish.
5. Submission of resume.

6. Submission of Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) or Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET) Certificate.
7. Documentation of one year of teaching experience.

13.0301.00 Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of essay with statement of goals.

13.0401.00 Master of Education in Educational Leadership

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of teaching certificate with a minimum of two years of teaching experience.

13.0501.00 Master of Education in Educational Technology

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.

13.1001.00 Master of Education in Special Education

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of letter of intent.
5. Demonstrated knowledge of special education or knowledge of individual differences through (a) state certification in special education; (b) three hours of undergraduate coursework in special education with a grade of 'B' or better; or (c) coursework in a related field such as psychology, early childhood education, or speech pathology.

13.1001.01 Master of Education in Educational Diagnostician

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.

2. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of statement of purpose.
5. Submission of most recent Professional Development and Appraisal System (PDAS).
6. Submission of documentation of teaching certificate.
7. Criminal background check.

13.1101.00 *Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation at least one of which must be from a former professor.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of letter of intent.
5. Personal interview.
6. Criminal background check.

13.1202.00 *Master of Education in Elementary Education*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of teaching certificate.

13.1205.00 *Master of Education in Secondary Education*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of teaching certificate.

13.1210.00 *Master of Education in Early Childhood Education*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.

13.1315.00 *Master of Education in Reading and Literacy*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.

2. Submission of two letters of recommendation from individuals knowing the applicant in a professional or academic capacity.
3. Submission of a one to two page letter of intent indicating reasons for pursuing the degree.
4. Submission of resume.
5. Minimum of 15 undergraduate hours in reading or a related field.
6. Applications to Reading Specialist track: Submission of teaching certificate and teacher service record showing a minimum of two years of teaching experience.
7. Personal interview for applicants to the reading specialist track.

13.1401.00 *Master of Arts in English as a Second Language*

1. A bachelor's degree in any field.
2. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 153 Verbal and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
3. Submission of letter of intent demonstrating interest in program and articulation of goals.
4. Submission of resume including education and work experience.
5. English language ability will be judged on the resume and submitted letter of intent; therefore, applications should be certain to use appropriate, formal academic English.
6. Nonnative English speakers who did not graduate from an English-medium high school and university must meet the minimum language proficiency requirements.

14.1001.00 *Master of Science in Engineering – Electrical Engineering*

1. GRE general test.
2. BS in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, or similarly named program with content equivalent to an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)-accredited BS in Electrical Engineering.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of resume.

14.1901.00 *Master of Science in Engineering – Mechanical Engineering*

1. GRE general test.
2. Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or a bachelor's degree in another field with courses and/or experience that prepare the applicant for graduate work in mechanical engineering or materials science engineering, depending upon the track the student opts to follow.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation on applicant's ability to pursue graduate studies.
4. Submission of letter of intent.
5. Submission of resume.

14.3601.00 Master of Science in Engineering – Manufacturing Engineering

1. GRE general test.
2. BS degree in engineering, science, computer science, or business.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of resume.

15.1501.00 Master of Science in Engineering Management

1. GRE general test.
2. BS degree in engineering, science, computer science, or business.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of resume.

16.0103.00 Master of Arts in Spanish Translation and Interpreting

1. GRE general test. Minimum scores: 146 Verbal and 4.0 Analytical Writing. A GRE waiver may be granted if the application holds a U. T. Rio Grande Valley Graduate Certificate in the field (Translation, Medical Interpreting, Court Interpreting) with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or holds a state court or medical interpreting license.
2. Submission of three academic or professional letters of recommendation.
3. Satisfactory performance on the translation of a document from English to Spanish and from Spanish to English and an interview either in person or online.

16.0905.00 Master of Arts in Spanish

1. GRE general test.
2. Submission of an academic paper written in Spanish for an upper-level undergraduate course.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of letter of intent.
5. Personal interview.

23.0101.00 Master of Arts in English

1. GRE general test.
2. BA in English or a minimum of 12 upper-level undergraduate hours in English or related field.
3. Submission of writing sample, a written academic paper suitable for an upper-division course.

23.1302.00 Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

1. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
2. Submission of letter of intent.
3. Submission of portfolio of creative work.

26.0101.00 Master of Science in Biology

1. GRE general test.

2. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in upper-level biology courses.
3. Undergraduate degree with major in biology or 30 hours of undergraduate courses in biological sciences or closely related disciplines, with 15 hours at the upper-level, with completion of three credit hours in four of the following categories: genetics, evolution, ecology, molecular and cell biology, organismal biology, and physiology.
4. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
5. Submission of letter of intent.
6. Submission of name of prospective supervisor.

27.0101.00 *Master of Science in Mathematics*

1. GRE general test.
2. Bachelor's degree in mathematics or related field with a minimum of 12 hours of upper-division mathematics or statistics course work and a grade of 'B' or better on all upper-division mathematics and/or statistics course work.
3. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of letter of intent.

30.9999.00 *Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies*

1. GRE general test.
2. Submission of statement of purpose and goals for pursuing the degree.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Concentration specific requirements may apply, such as a minimum number of undergraduate hours in the concentration area and a minimum undergraduate GPA in the concentration area.

30.999.00 *Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies*

1. GRE general test.
2. Submission of statement of purpose and goals for pursuing the degree.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Concentration specific requirements may apply, such as a minimum number of undergraduate hours in the concentration area and a minimum undergraduate GPA in the concentration area.

31.0505.00 *Master of Science in Exercise Science*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion but has a GPA of at least 2.5, a personal interview is required for consideration of conditional admission.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of statement of purpose in pursuing the degree.

31.0505.00 Master of Science in Kinesiology

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion but has a GPA of at least 2.5, a personal interview is required for consideration of conditional admission.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of statement of purpose in pursuing the degree.

40.0501.00 Master of Science in Chemistry

1. GRE general test.
2. Undergraduate degree with major in chemistry or 32 hours of undergraduate courses in Chemistry. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for undergraduate Chemistry course work.
3. Submission of statement of interest explaining objectives in pursuing the degree and area of interest within chemistry, biochemistry, or material science.
4. Submission of two letters of recommendation.

40.0801.00 Master of Science in Physics

1. GRE general test with expected range of GRE Quantitative scores of >158 for admitted students.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of statement of purpose.

42.2704.00 Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology

1. GRE general test. Minimum scores: 153 Verbal and 144 Quantitative.
2. Undergraduate course in statistics and/or research methods with a grade of B or better.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Letter of intent of 400-500 words.

42.2801.00 Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

1. GRE general test with preferred minimum scores of 153 Verbal and 144 Quantitative.
2. Submission of 1,500 word essay on goals and degree options.
3. Submission of resume.
4. Submission of three letters of recommendation.

42.2805.00 Master of Arts in School Psychology

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Bachelor's or master's degree in a related field preferred.
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation from individuals in a position to judge the professional and academic potential of the

applicant. At least one should be from a university professor in the applicant's major area of study.

4. Submission of a letter of intent indicating reasons for pursuing the degree.

40.0501.00 *Master of Science in Criminal Justice*

1. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion but has a GPA of 2.5-2.99, GRE general test with minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical are required for conditional admission.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation from previous college professors.
3. Submission of letter of intent.

44.0401.00 *Master of Public Administration*

1. Submission of three names of individuals who may be contacted for a personal or professional recommendation.
2. Submission of personal statement detailing reasons for pursuing the degree and professional goals indicating references to previous employment and experience.

44.0501.00 *Master of Public Policy and Management*

1. Submission of two letters of recommendation, one of which should be academic.
2. Submission of letter of intent.
3. Submission of a 750-word essay analyzing a public policy issue and discussing what insights into that issue they expect to gain in pursuit of the degree.

44.0701.00 *Master of Social Work*

1. Submission of three letters of recommendations.
2. Submission of personal narrative statement.
3. Submission of writing sample.

45.1101.00 *Master of Science in Sociology*

1. GRE general test.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of an essay explaining the purpose in pursuing the degree and career objectives.

50.0702.00 *Master of Fine Arts in Art*

1. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
2. Statement of purpose describing artistic direction and professional goals.
3. Minimum of 60 hours of art at the undergraduate level.

4. Submission of 15-20 digital images of recent works in major area of concentration.

50.0901.00 *Master of Music*

1. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
2. Submission of letter of intent.
3. Submission of essay on professional goals.
4. Submission of resume.
5. Personal interview.
6. Audition for performance track; audition/video recording of conducting large ensemble for conducting track; writing sample for ethnomusicology track; video recording of sample teaching including corresponding lesson plan for music education track.

51.0000.00 *Master of Science in Health Sciences*

1. Bachelor's degree in allied health science, business, or related field.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of a letter of intent.
4. Documentation of certification or licensure to practice as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in the United States required for applicants to the Clinical Lab Sciences track.

51.0201.00 *Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders*

1. GRE general test taken within prior two years.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation or reference checklists.
3. Submission of 500-word essay on goals in pursuing degree.
4. Submission of resume.

51.0912.00 *Master in Physician Assistant Studies*

1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on last 30 hours of course work.
2. Completion of the following prerequisite course work with a GPA of 3.0 or better.
 - General Biology I and General Biology II
 - Genetics
 - Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II
 - Microbiology
 - General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II
 - Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry
 - General Psychology or Abnormal Psychology
 - Statistics
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of personal statement.
5. Submission of resume.
6. Documentation of 50 hours of shadowing.

51.2306.00 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT)

1. GRE general test. Minimum scores: 150 Verbal, 140 Quantitative, 2.5 Analytical Writing.
2. Specified undergraduate course work completed within five years of the February 1st application deadline with a grade of “C” or better and 3.0 GPA on all prerequisite course work.
 - Anatomy & Physiology I (lecture & lab)
 - Anatomy & Physiology II (lecture & lab)
 - Basic Statistics
 - Psychology of Lifespan
 - Abnormal Psychology
 - Anthropology or Sociology
 - Biomechanics
 - General Physics I (lecture & lab)
 - Technical Writing
 - Medical Terminology
3. Submission of three letters of recommendation.
4. Submission of personal statement addressing (a) why you select OT as a career, (b) how an OT degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals, and (c) describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals.
5. Documented volunteer hours or experiences.
6. Submission of application to Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS).
7. Personal interview.
8. Signed Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Consent allowing community-based Occupational Therapists to evaluate application materials.

51.2310.00 Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling

1. Submission of one letter of recommendation from an employer and one letter of recommendation from a former professor.
2. Submission of a double-spaced, two-page, typed essay as to why you want to pursue a Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and become a counselor. Applicants must include educational and career goals as well as any other pertinent personal characteristics deemed appropriate. Please include information about work experience related to the field of rehabilitation and past interactions involving individuals with disabilities (i.e., daily, weekly, monthly).

51.3802.00 Master of Science in Nursing Administration

1. BS in Nursing or other baccalaureate degree plus the successful completion of Transition to Graduate Nursing course.

2. Submission of short essay including reason for seeking admission, anticipated personal gain, relevant preparation, and future professional plans.
3. Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
4. Documentation of current license to practice nursing in Texas.
5. Criminal background check.
6. Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related academic programs.

51.3802.00 *Master of Science in Nursing Practitioner*

1. BS in Nursing.
2. Submission of resume.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
5. Documentation of current license to practice nursing in Texas.
6. Criminal background check.
7. Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related academic programs.

51.3802.00 *Master of Science in Nursing Education*

1. BS in Nursing or other baccalaureate degree plus the successful completion of Transition to Graduate Nursing course.
2. Submission of short essay including reason for seeking admission, anticipated personal gain, relevant preparation, and future professional plans.
3. Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
4. Documentation of current license to practice nursing in Texas.
5. Criminal background check.
6. Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related academic programs.

52.0201.00 *Master of Business Administration*

1. GMAT with minimum score of 400 or GRE with minimum score of 146 Verbal and 146 Quantitative. A waiver for the GMAT may be granted to those applicants who show proof of one of the following: have more than four years of professional managerial experience, earned graduate degree (master's or doctoral), or graduated with an undergraduate GPA of 3.8 or higher on a zero to four point scale.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendations.
3. Respond to five short answer questions provided on application to demonstrate writing competency and communication skills.

52.0301.00 *Master of Accountancy*

1. GMAT. A waiver for the GMAT may be granted to those applicants who show proof of one of the following: have current Certified Public

Accountant (CPA) license, hold a graduate degree (master's or doctoral) from an Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)-accredited university, or have graduated with an undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or higher on a zero to four point scale overall and on all accounting course work.

2. Submission of two letters of recommendations.
3. Letter of intent.
4. Current resume.

52.0301.00 *Master of Science in Accounting*

1. GMAT. A waiver for the GMAT may be granted to those applicants who show proof of one of the following: have current CPA license, hold a graduate degree (master's or doctoral) from an AACSB-accredited university, or have graduated with an undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or higher on a zero to four point scale overall and on all accounting course work.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendations.
3. Letter of intent.
4. Current resume.

54.0101.00 *Master of Arts in History*

1. GRE general test.
2. Submission of two letters of recommendation.
3. Submission of letter of intent.
4. Submission of writing sample of at least five pages with citations and bibliography.
5. Minimum of 12 hours of upper-division and nine hours of lower-division History course work.