



1st in Texas
Ranked Best
University

Washington Monthly
(2023 & 2024)

**1st in Best
Performance**
of Pell Grant
Students Among
Texas Universities

Washington Monthly
(2023 & 2024)

#1 in Texas
for Social Mobility
and Best Value
Public University

Wall Street Journal (2025)
Washington Monthly
(2023 & 2024)

1st in Texas
for Best Nursing
Master's Degree

Washington Monthly
(2024)

1st in Texas
for Lowest Net
Price of Attendance

Washington Monthly
(2023 & 2024)
Degree Choices (2023)



THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES | 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Message from President Dr. Guy Bailey

In August 2025, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) will celebrate its 10th anniversary and the milestones achieved since opening our doors in 2015 are remarkable. In less than 9 years, we have graduated over 56,000 students, equivalent to 3% of the Rio Grande Valley population. We have expanded educational opportunities for students by adding over 42 bachelor, master, doctoral and professional degree programs and research expenditures have surpassed those of our two legacy institutions by close to 600%. Notably, our medical school, which opened in 2016, is now fully accredited and has produced 238 medical graduates and in 2022, we opened our School of Podiatric Medicine, the first in Texas and only one of eleven in the nation. Our physicians and faculty provide care throughout the Rio Grande Valley at over 25 clinical sites, and in 2025, we will open our Cancer and Surgery Center, the first comprehensive academic outpatient cancer treatment program in the region and we continue to recruit expert physicians and scientists to lead research in diabetes, cancer, immunology, and neuroscience. Despite operating on a lean budget, UTRGV consistently ranks #1 in the state and nation for low cost, high value, and greatest social mobility and economic value. I am most proud of our students, the majority of which are first-generation college students, working their way through school to help support their families and still maintain a 81% first-year retention rate. **Great things are happening at UTRGV and with your continued support, the best is yet to come.**

utrgv.edu/89th

Brain Health at UTRGV

INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE (ION):

- State's only National Institute on Aging-designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.
- World-class center of excellence in brain health education, research, and personalized treatment serving the Rio Grande Valley communities and beyond.
- Conducting research and providing clinical care for those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia, among other diseases of the brain.

SOUTH TEXAS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER (ADRC):

- Collaboration of the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases. Mission is to expand genetic studies to include more of the region's population.
- Joins 32 other centers nationwide that are accelerating research on effective Alzheimer's and dementia prevention, diagnostics, and treatments, while improving support for families and caregivers.
- ADRCs are National Institute on Aging Centers of Excellence.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESOURCE CENTER FOR AGING RESEARCH:

- Builds an infrastructure and data collections system to attract and support expert researchers from multiple disciplines and at different scientific career stages, encouraging them to conduct research aimed at reducing the impacts of Alzheimer's disease.



New Degrees Since UTRGV Opened in 2015 (42)

Bachelor's
17

Master's
16

Doctoral
5

Professional
4



Moving the Needle on Healthcare

Physicians Educated

Accredited medical school with 220 medical students across 4 classes and 238 medical graduates.

Growing our Own

46% of current students come from the RGV or completed undergraduate degrees at UTRGV.

Graduate Medical Education (GME)

408 Residents and fellows completed training since 2016; 136 Residents and Fellow currently training across 9 residency and fellowship programs. 56% stayed in Texas; of those 59% stayed in the RGV.

School of Podiatric Medicine

First in Texas, only one of 11 in the nation and only public SoPM. Opened in 2022, seated third class.

Taking Care of the Community

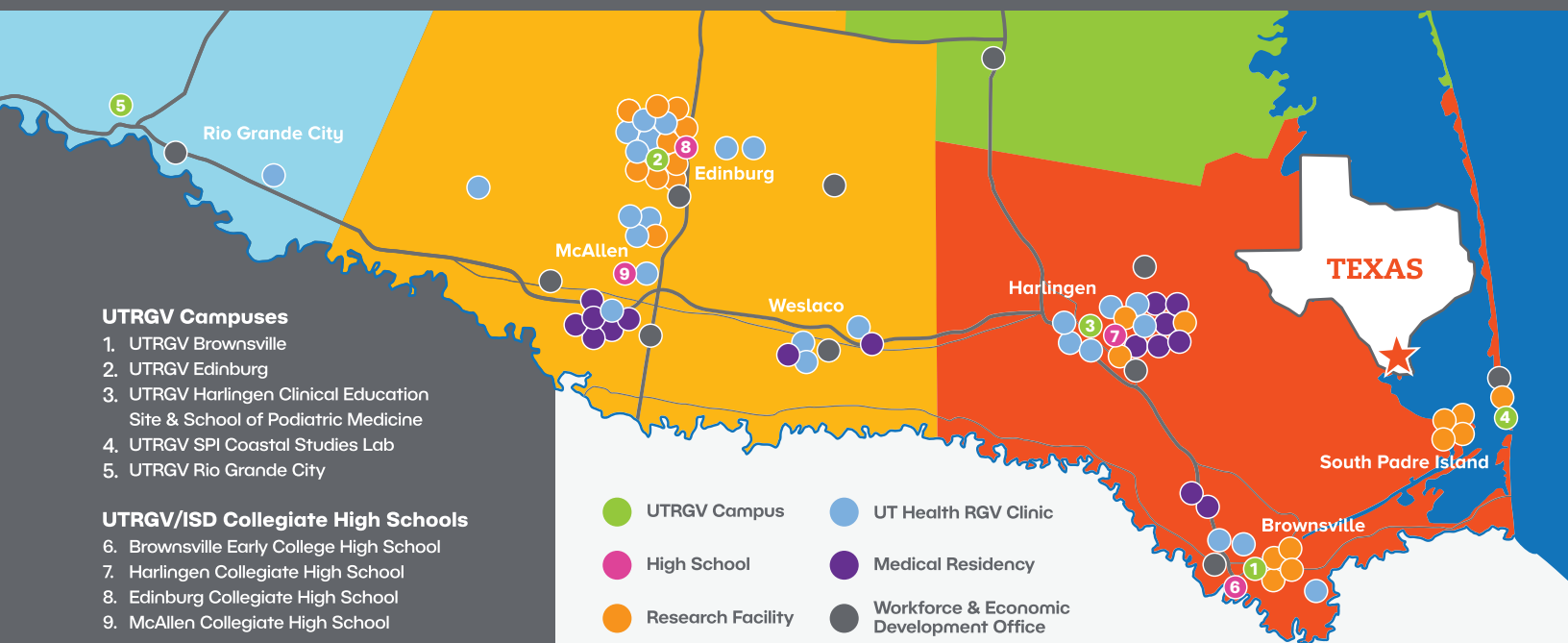
UT Health RGV has 25 clinical sites across 100 miles within the RGV, including 3 Area Health Education Clinics (AHECs) in three counties. Podiatrists provide care in 2 of those clinics. UT Health RGV also operates a mobile van, the Unimovil, that provides basic care in colonias across the RGV.

Institute of Neuroscience

Conducting Research and providing clinical care for those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia, and other diseases of the brain. State's only National Institute on Aging-designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Cancer and Surgery Center

First comprehensive academic outpatient cancer treatment program in the region. Opens in 2025.



General Academic Unit

Funding for a New School of Optometry (SOO) and the Doctor of Optometry (OD) Program \$10 MILLION IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

Funding will provide resources to establish and operate UTRGV's SOO and the OD degree program. THECB approval for the OD program is anticipated in January 2025, and the inaugural cohort of 40 students is expected to enroll Fall 2027. Funding will support salaries for the founding dean, associate deans, clinical and basic science faculty, and academic support staff. The SOO and OD program are critical components of UTRGV's strategic plan for health and professional medical education in the Rio Grande Valley.

Restore Funding for Institutional Enhancement (IE) RESTORE \$16.2 MILLION IN CURRENT FUNDING; ADD \$6.9 MILLION IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

5 doctoral programs in STEM and health fields, and 3 professional programs.

- Ph.D. in Physics
- Ph.D. in Human Genetics
- Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- PhD in Computer Science
- PhD in Integrated Life Sciences
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)
- PhD in Materials Science and Engineering

Border Economic and Enterprise Development RETAIN \$1 MILLION IN CURRENT FUNDING; ADD \$340,000 IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

Would broaden capacity to support workforce development, new industry recruitment, industry engagement, and small business development, as well as much-needed workforce analysis.

Starr County Upper-Level Center (ULC)

RETAIN \$55,230 IN CURRENT FUNDING; ADD \$290,000 IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

To expand services in one of the most chronically underserved areas of Texas, including increased recruitment of teacher candidates, social work programs, and health and mental wellness training.

Other Significant Priorities

TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

More intense, yearlong programs providing more meaningful experiences than the traditional student teaching programs.

FULLY FUND ENROLLMENT GROWTH

A priority that is particularly important for those institutions that continue to grow.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE PROJECT (CCAP)

Health Professions Workforce Building = \$150 million with a total of 150,000 gross square feet.

FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

TEXAS Grants and work-study programs

CONTINUE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES (CRUs)

RESEARCH FUNDING

CONTINUE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND COVERAGE

School of Medicine (SoM)

TOP PRIORITY

Medical School Non-Formula Instruction and Operations

RETAIN \$39.9 MILLION IN CURRENT FUNDING

The RGV is home to the only medical school in deep South Texas, a rapidly growing four-county region with disproportionate poverty, higher rates of disease and shortage of physicians in every specialty. The UTRGV School of Medicine's highest priority is the continuation of the Non-Formula Support (NFS) operational funding.

School of Podiatric Medicine

RETAIN \$12 MILLION IN CURRENT FUNDING

NFS appropriations support operating costs until full formula and clinical funding materializes. The school will increase the supply and access to podiatrists to align with growth and demand for foot-related healthcare created by aging, diabetes, and obesity.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

Limb Preservation Program (LPP)

\$5 MILLION IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

The LPP will coordinate efforts of the Schools of Medicine and Podiatric Medicine to include a team of multidisciplinary specialists who work to prevent limb loss and restore lower limb function in diabetic patients and aligns with the goal of establishing a Diabetes

Center of Excellence that will operate in conjunction with the Limb Preservation Center.

Cancer Immunology Center

RETAIN \$1.9 MILLION IN CURRENT FUNDING; ADD \$5 MILLION IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDING

The RGV has long been a medically underserved area with wide gaps in specialty care and research; cancer research and cancer care are among the most critical shortages. UTRGV seeks to add \$5M to support the operations of a new Cancer Center opening in 2025. With design and oncology advisory services provided by the MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Health RGV will operate this first of its kind comprehensive academic cancer treatment program in the region.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FUNDING PRIORITIES

TEXAS CHILD MENTAL HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM (TCMHCC)

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION EXPANSION GRANTS

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE PROJECT (CCAP)

Limb Preservation Center (LPC) = \$23 million



UTRGV Accessible & Affordable

UTRGV's Tuition Advantage Program covers over 90 percent of its residential undergraduates tuition and mandatory fees, making it the largest no-cost tuition program in Texas and one of the largest in the United States.

Lowest average total academic costs per year and per degree among Texas public universities.

UTRGV's tuition is transparent, predictable, and incentivizes students to graduate sooner.

At \$18,298 In-State tuition, **UTRGV's School of Medicine** is among the most affordable in the United States.

TRANSPARENT
Eliminated most fees

PREDICTABLE
Guaranteed for four years

INCENTIVIZING: Tuition and fees capped at 12 hours. Enrollment at 15 hours gives students **one free class** every semester or **one free semester** overall to encourage progress toward graduation. Enrollment in 18 hours gives students **two free classes** a semester.

Lowest Net Price of Attendance
#1 – Among Texas Universities
#5 – Among National Public Universities

Top Social Mobility for Students
#1 – Among Texas Universities
#9 – Among National Public Universities

Access & Affordability = **56,000+ GRADUATES IN 9 YEARS** (3% of RGV population)