



9312 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
P 301.581.9200
www.cpme.org

STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

College:	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Podiatric Medicine
Address:	2102 Treasure Hills Blvd. Harlingen, TX 78550
Telephone:	(956) 665-5898
President:	Guy Bailey, PhD
Academic Dean:	Javier La Fontaine, D.P.M., M.S., M.Ed.
Date of Initial Accreditation:	n/a
Accreditation:	CPME: Candidacy Status granted June 2022
Maximum Enrollment:	40
Date of Previous Evaluations:	January 24-25, 2022 (Candidacy)
Next Scheduled Site Visit:	CPME: Late Fall 2023/Early Winter 2024

Brief History since the Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

June 2022

Based on the review of the comprehensive report of the evaluation team, the school's written responses to the team report, the presentation to the Accreditation Committee (Committee) on April 21, 2022, the follow-up responses received on May 11, 2022, and the presentation to the Committee on June 6, 2022, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education accepted the Committee's recommendation and elected to **grant candidacy status** of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Podiatric Medicine (SOPM) on June 8, 2022. On-site re-evaluation to determine preaccreditation status may be expected during the late fall 2023/early winter 2024. The maximum first-year class enrollment is 40.

An institution that has achieved candidate status is viewed by the Council to have the potential for meeting CPME accreditation standards and requirements once the DPM program is fully activated with students enrolled in all four years. The Council may elect to withdraw candidate status if the institution fails to continue to meet the CPME eligibility requirements or demonstrates inadequate progress in satisfying CPME standards and requirements. **The achievement of candidate status does not guarantee eventual preaccreditation or accreditation.** If the institution fails to be preaccredited by the end of the

candidate status period, which may extend no longer than three years, the institution will be provided full opportunity to request procedural reconsideration and appeal the decision of the Council in accordance with the procedures described in CPME 130.

Upon the granting of candidate status, the new college will have the right and privilege to solicit applications from and admit students, offer medical instruction within the approved podiatric medical curriculum, and announce its candidate status. Candidate status may not be designated as “accreditation” until the new college is accredited.

When an institution that has obtained candidate status has enrolled students in the first of the four academic years, the Council will conduct an on-site evaluation for the purpose of determining preaccreditation. Preaccreditation is the category that may be granted a new college that has achieved candidate status and the Council has determined that it is likely to succeed in obtaining accreditation. In order for the Council to grant preaccreditation to a new college holding candidate status, the new college must demonstrate that it meets, or has in place plans to meet, the accreditation standards and requirements by submitting an updated self-study to the Council along with all applicable fees. The Council will schedule an on-site evaluation to take place before the midpoint of the second year of the curriculum to review progress in the implementation of the educational program and the status of planning for later stages of the program.

Last updated 7.18.2022