

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

The following activities are examples of the kind of activities which a student in the Surgical Technology program will be required to perform in order to successfully complete the program. This list is not all-inclusive. If an accepted applicant believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodation or modifications, the applicant should consult the College's accessibility counselor.

Issue	Standard	Example
Critical Thinking	A Surgical Technology student should possess critical thinking and problem-solving skills to anticipate the needs of the surgical team and respond quickly to unexpected situations.	Students must be able to apply knowledge and skills learned in didactic, lab, and clinical instruction to function on unfamiliar procedures.
Interpersonal Skills	A Surgical Technology student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with surgeons, operating room (OR) personnel, hospital departmental staff, and patients. This also includes the ability of the student to handle constructive criticism.	Constructive criticism is expressed in the lab as a teaching tool, in the classroom and in the clinical sites as well. Students should respond positively and professionally to constructive criticism. Students shall establish a working rapport with surgeons, anesthesia personnel, other surgical technologists, nurses, and a variety of other departmental specialists and patients.
Communication Skills	A Surgical Technology student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with patients, surgical team members, and other healthcare professionals in verbal form.	Discuss and ask questions regarding the surgical procedures both pre-operatively and intra-operatively at appropriate times.
Mobility/Physical Stamina	A Surgical Technology student shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move and maneuver in a small operating room. Students may experience periods of standing in one spot for an extensive amount of time. Some surgical procedures require sitting for long periods of time as well. A Surgical Technology student will experience lifting surgical instrument trays as well as participating in patient lifting and positioning.	Holding a patient's extremity for 5 to 15 minutes or standing for a surgical procedure that may last several hours. Instrument trays may weigh as much as 27 pounds.

Motor Skills	A Surgical Technology student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care in the operating room.	Manipulating very fine and delicate instruments and suture as well as the larger more complex orthopedic and neuro equipment.
Auditory	A Surgical Technology student shall possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs by the surgeon and other sterile operating room team members.	Surgeons and/or staff wear surgical masks during surgical procedures. This limits the ability to hear requests and directions within the surgical field. The student must be able to hear and respond to verbal communication, alarms, and equipment signals in a noisy operating room environment.
Visual Acuity	A Surgical Technology student shall possess visual ability and acuity for observation and assessment necessary during a surgical procedure.	Handling fine surgical suture needles safely and efficiently in response to the needs of the surgeon and surgical procedure, being able to visualize and follow the surgical procedure, and working with small supplies and instruments that require calibration. Students must be able to distinguish between colors.
Tactile/Hand-eye Coordination	A Surgical Technology student shall possess tactile ability to sufficiently handle all the microscopic supplies, instruments, and equipment.	Implantable items for patients may be very delicate, in combination with sterile surgical gloves, some supplies, instruments and tissue require very delicate manipulation.

Emotional Resilience	A Surgical Technology student shall possess the ability to cope with stress and pressure of working in high-stakes surgical environments.	Stress in the operating room is very common. Tension runs high for many days, and it can affect a student's ability to cope with the environment and others in the environment. Stress arises from the difficult development of interpersonal skills within the operating room. Stress is also environmental related (this is a totally different environment than any you have been in; ex: room temperatures, noises, odors, patient conditions, sites, and standing for a long period of time either in an ergonomic or non-ergonomic position).
Cognitive Abilities	A Surgical Technology student shall possess the ability to be oriented to time, place, and person, organize responsibilities, and make quick appropriate decisions.	Students will need to quickly assess needs for surgical procedures, anticipate surgeon's needs, and act appropriately at all times. Organizational skills when setting up the instrument table and mayo table will allow the student to function in a more efficient manner.
Occupational Exposures	A Surgical Technology student is at high risk for exposure to blood and body fluids resulting in exposure to communicable disease, toxic substances, medical preparations, and chemical sterilization practices at all times. Standard precautions must be practiced at all times.	A student may be assigned to a surgical procedure with a patient that has a known or unknown communicable disease. Ethylene oxide is a means of a lethal chemical sterilization process.
Ethical and Professional Behavior	A Surgical Technology student shall possess ethical and professional behavior, including maintaining patient confidentiality and adhering to professional standards and guidelines.	A student must not share patient information, including taking photos of any patient that could violate HIPAA regulations or hospital and school social media policies. A student must follow the NCCT and AST standards and school guidelines regarding aseptic technique and professional scope of practice at all times.