



Prerequisite Requirements

STUDENT TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The following are essential job functions for any Surgical Technologist as compiled from observations of a wide variety of job experiences. The Technical Standards must be met and maintained throughout the length of the program. If the student cannot meet and maintain the following technical abilities, he or she will be dropped from the program.

- Visual Acuity
 - Distinguish between small objects within the sterile field and outside of the sterile field.
 - Perform necessary procedures involving assembling equipment, instruments, drills, and other necessary items.
 - Be able to load needle holders with small sutures and needles.
 - Read surgeon's preference cards and instruction manuals.
 - Perform data entry tasks using computer terminals.
 - Help during insertion of needles or catheters into small anatomical structures.
- Hearing Acuity
 - Hearing must be sufficient to communicate with others.
 - Hear and retain instruction from surgeon, OR personnel, and instructor simultaneously.
 - Hear and retain information to relay to others.
 - Hearing must be sufficient to answer telephones and intercoms in the operating room and department.
- Speaking Ability
 - Speak clearly and loudly enough to be understood by a person in the operating room or on the phone and intercom.
 - Converse with surgeons, operating room personnel, classmates, and instructor using good communication skills.
- Manual Dexterity
 - Must be able to grasp and manipulate small objects required to perform job function.
 - Must be able to hold and maintain instrumentation in one position for long periods of time.
 - Must be able to turn hands palm-up and palm-down.
- Physical Stamina
 - Must be able to stand for the majority of a normal workday.
 - Lift instrument sets weighing 20 to 25 lbs.
 - Push or pull surgical equipment, furniture, supply carts.
 - Help transport and transfer patients to the OR table.
 - Help with positioning patients for surgical procedures.
 - Maintain balance while performing job functions.
 - Must be able to move freely and feel comfortable in confined areas.
 - Must not have any open wound conditions on hands and/or arms



Adaptive Ability

- Complete required tasks/function under stressful conditions.
- Must be flexible to changes in assignments or tasks.
- Perform independently and safely with minimal supervision
- Interact appropriately with diverse personalities.
- Be able to multi-task and remain focused.
- Must be able to remain calm under stressful conditions.

Program Expectations

To prepare competent entry-level surgical technologist in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

PROGRAM SURGICAL CASE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION ELIGIBILITY

Surgical Specialty	Total # of Cases Required	Minimum # of First Scrub Cases Required	Maximum # of Second Scrub Cases That Can be Applied Towards 120 Cases
General Surgery	30	20	10
Surgical Specialties	90	60	30
Cardiothoracic			
ENT			
Eye			
GU			
Neuro			
Ob-Gyn			
Oral/Maxillofacial			
Orthopedics			
Peripheral Vascular			
Plastics			
Procurement/Transplant			
Diagnostic Endoscopy			10 diagnostic endoscopy cases may be applied toward the second scrub cases



Bronchoscopy			
Colonoscopy			
Cystoscopy			
EGD			
ERCP			
Esophagoscopy			
Laryngoscopy			
Panendoscopy			
Sinoscopy			
Ureteroscopy			
Labor & Delivery			5 vaginal delivery cases may be applied toward the second scrub cases
Totals	120	80	40

1. The total number of cases the student must complete is 120.
2. Students are required to complete 30 cases in General Surgery. Twenty of the cases must be in the First Scrub Role.
3. Students are required to complete 90 cases in various surgical specialties. Sixty of the cases must be in the First Scrub Role and evenly distributed between a minimum of 5 surgical specialties.
4. The surgical technology program is required to verify through the surgical rotation documentation the students' progression in First and Second Scrubbing surgical procedures of increased complexity as he/she moves towards entry-level graduate abilities.
5. Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory. But up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases and 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted toward the maximum number of Second Scrub Role cases.
6. Observation cases must be documented, but do not count towards the 120 required cases.
7. Counting Cases

Trauma patient requires a splenectomy and repair of a LeFort I fracture. Two cases can be counted and documented since the splenectomy is general surgery specialty and repair of LeFort I is oral-maxillofacial surgical specialty.



Patient requires a breast biopsy followed by a mastectomy. It is one pathology, breast cancer, and the specialty is general surgery; therefore, it is counted and documented as one procedure – one case.

FIRST AND SECOND SCRUB ROLE AND OBSERVATION

FIRST SCRUB ROLE

The student surgical technologist shall perform the following duties during any given surgical procedure with proficiency. The following list is provided to identify the items that must be completed in order to document case in the first scrub role. A student not meeting the five criteria below cannot count the case in the first scrub role and the case must be documented in the second scrub role or observation role.

- Verify supplies and equipment needed for the surgical procedure.
- Set up the sterile field with instruments, supplies, equipment, medication(s), and solutions needed for the procedure.
- Perform counts with the circulator prior to the procedure and before the incision is closed.
- Pass instruments and supplies to the sterile surgical team members during the procedure.
- Maintain sterile technique as measured by recognized breaks in technique and demonstrate knowledge of how to correct with appropriate technique.

SECOND SCRUB ROLE

The second scrub role is defined as the student who is at the sterile field who has not met all criteria for the first scrub role, but actively participates in the surgical procedure in its entirety by completing any of the following:

- Sponging
- Suctioning
- Cutting suture
- Holding retractors
- Manipulating endoscopic equipment

OBSERVATION ROLE

The observation role is defined as the student who is in the operating room performing roles that do not meet the criteria for the first or second scrub role. These observation cases are not to be included in the required case count but must be documented by the program.

For further information on the Surgical Technology (ST) program, please select a topic of interest from the list below.