



ADMISSION INFORMATION PACKET



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Surgical Technologist is a vital member of the Surgical Team. Surgical technologists, also called operating room technologists, assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Before an operation, surgical technologists help set up the operating room with surgical instruments and equipment, and sterile solutions. They assemble, adjust, and check non-sterile equipment to ensure that all is working properly. Technologists also prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room and help position them on the operating table. Technologists also observe patients' vital signs and check charts. The technologist helps the surgical team don sterile gowns and gloves, and apply the sterile surgical "drapes" prior to the start of the surgical procedure.

During surgery, technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgeon assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Surgical technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and may help apply dressings. They may operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines, and help operate diagnostic equipment. After an operation, surgical technologists may help transfer patients to the recovery room, and clean and restock the operating room.

This program provides classroom education and supervised clinical experience. Students take courses in anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, professional ethics, medical terminology, speech, computers and psychology. Other studies cover the care and safety of patients during surgery, aseptic techniques and surgical procedures. Students also learn to sterilize instruments; prevent and control infection; and handle special drugs, solutions, supplies and equipment.

Surgical Technologists must possess manual dexterity to handle instruments efficiently and quickly. They also must be conscientious, orderly, and emotionally stable to handle the demands of the operating room environment. Technologists must respond quickly and have a full understanding of the procedures so that they may anticipate the needs of the surgeons without having to be asked for instruments or supplies. They are expected to keep abreast of new developments in the field.

Technologists advance by specializing in a particular area of surgery, such as orthopedics, neurosurgery or open heart surgery. They may also work as circulating technologists. A circulating technologist is the "unsterile" person during the procedure that interviews the patient before surgery, keeps a written account of the surgical procedure and answers the surgeon's questions about the patient during the surgery. With additional training, some technologists advance to first assistants, who help with retracting, sponging, suturing, cauterizing bleeders, and closing and treating wounds. Some surgical technologists manage central supply departments in hospitals or take positions with insurance companies, sterile supply services, and operating equipment firms. Most surgical technologists work in hospitals. They spend much of their time on their feet.

This program is a hybrid program offered only during the day. A combination of online didactic instruction and face to face lab/clinical training is provided.

Surgical Technology Program Contact Information

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SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Associates of Applied Science Degree Plan

ACADEMIC COURSES		Lec	Lab	Ext	Cont.	SCH
Semester 1						
HITT 1305	Medical Terminology I	2	2	0	64	3
BIOL 2301	Anatomy & Physiology I (lecture)	3	0	0	48	3
BIOL 2101	and Anatomy & Physiology I (lab)	0	3	0	48	1
BIOL 2401	or Anatomy & Physiology (lecture+lab)	3	3	0	96	4
ENGL 1301	Composition	3	0	0	48	3
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3	0	0	48	3
Semester Totals		11	5	0	256	13
Semester 2						
SRGT 1405	Introduction to Surgical Technology	3	4	0	112	4
SRGT 1409	Fundamentals of Perioperative Concepts	3	4	0	112	4
SRGT 1491	Special Topics in Surgical/OR Technician	3	4	0	112	4
Semester Totals		9	12	0	336	12
Semester 3						
SRGT 1541	Surgical Procedures I	3	6	0	144	5
BIOL 2302	Anatomy and Physiology II (lecture)	3	0	0	48	3
BIOL 2102	and Anatomy and Physiology II (lab)	0	3	0	48	1
BIOL 2404	or Anatomy and Physiology II (lecture+lab)	3	3	0	96	4
SRGT 1244	Technological Sciences for the ST	1	3	0	64	2
Semester Totals		7	12	0	304	11
Semester 4						
SRGT 1461	Clinical –Surgical Technology/ Technologist	0	0	24	384	4
SRGT 1542	Surgical Procedures II	3	6	0	144	5
ACGM X3XX	Gen. Ed Humanities/ Fine Arts Elective	3	0	0	48	3
Semester Totals		6	6	24	576	12
Semester 5						
SRGT 2462	Clinical –Surgical Technology/ Technologist	0	0	24	384	4
SRGT 2130	Professional Readiness	1	0	0	16	1
BIOL 2320	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors (lecture)	3	0	0	48	3
BIOL 2120	and Microbiology for Non-Science Majors (lab)	0	3	0	48	1
BIOL 2420	or Microbiology for Non-Science Majors (lecture+lab)	3	3	0	96	4
Math 1332	Contemporary Mathematics (Quantitative Reasoning)	3	0	0	48	3
Math 1314	or College Algebra (3 SCH version)	3	0	0	48	3
Semester Totals		7	3	24	544	12
AAS degree total credits		40	41	48	2016	60

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

The responsibilities, expectations and personal characteristics desired of a Surgical Technologist include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Ability to work under stress.
- Alertness of mind to think and plan logically to organize work.
- Ability to anticipate patients and surgeons' needs.
- Ability and interest in learning and transferring knowledge to clinical situations.
- Ability to work effectively with people in authority and with co-workers.
- Ability to accept constructive criticism and show behavioral change.
- Physical stamina: ability to stand for long periods of time, without breaks, for 4 to 6 hours or longer during procedures and have good bladder control for extended periods - 4 to 6 hours or longer.
- Ability to reach and lift heavy (20 lbs. or more) operating room instruments and equipment.
- Ability to help lift and move anesthetized surgical patients (some may weigh in excess of 200 lbs).
- Ability to adapt to early morning work schedule, rotating shifts and to be "on-call" for emergency surgery.

Must possess the following personal characteristics:

- Personal integrity
- Emotional stability
- Flexibility
- Ability to establish and maintain effective interpersonal relationships
- No active skin conditions such as psoriasis, eczema, or allergic reactions to soaps, latex gloves, or strong chemical solutions
- Normal vision glasses or contact lenses are acceptable
- Normal hearing - a surgical technologist needs to be able to hear and clearly understand masked surgeons and surgical team members
- No substance abuse
- Must be free of active contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, etc.
- Digital dexterity, e.g.: able to handle surgical instruments with both left and right hands at an extremely rapid pace, able to supinate and pronate at the wrist
- Must be willing to dedicate 4 to 5 hours daily to studies.
- Aware of possible exposure to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.

American Disability Act notice

"Texas State Technical College Harlingen will abide by the American Disability Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Because the duties of this program are vigorous, if you have a disability, Texas State Technical College Harlingen encourages you the applicant to disclose disability that may necessitate academic accommodations, policy modifications, and/or adaptive equipment that may allow you to participate on an equal basis the functions set forth by this program. Support Service Office is the indicated office in which applicants can disclose and obtain information regarding accommodations. The Support Service Office is located in the Auxiliary Building and can be contacted at 956-364-4520/voice or 956-364-4526/ TDD. Applicants are encouraged to self-disclose in a timely manner."

CERTIFICATION

Graduates from TSTC will take the National Certifying Exam (CST) upon graduation. If successful in passing the CST exam, they may then use the designation Certified Surgical Technologist, or CST. Continuing education or re-examination is required to maintain certification, which must be renewed every two years or obtain 30 CEUs in a 2 year cycle. **Texas graduates must now be certified in order to get employment.**

The certification success rate for December 2023 was 94%.

EMPLOYMENT

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals full time. Others are employed in clinics, surgical centers, and in the office of physicians and dentists who perform outpatient surgery. They spend much of their time on their feet. Surgical technologists employed in hospitals may work or be on call during nights, weekends, and holidays. They may also be required to work shifts lasting longer than 8 hours.

Work Environment: As a Surgical Technology student, you will be exposed to potentially infectious blood and body fluids. Texas State Technical College will not be held responsible for any injury sustained during clinical experiences.

Students will be required to purchase Accident and Needlestick insurance through TSTC. In addition, you are encouraged to purchase medical insurance. Students will also be required to obtain the Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, Meningitis, TB, and Flu vaccinations along with any other vaccines that are required by the clinical sites.

Each student is responsible for his/her own health care insurance during enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program.

- All Surgical Technology students who have a course with a clinical component will be required to show proof of personal medical health insurance coverage. Students must obtain this at their own expense and maintain it for the duration that the student is in the program. Students that fail to provide proof of health insurance will be removed from the program.

The hospitals (clinical sites) have the right to conduct a random drug screen test when deemed necessary.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries. **Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and for those who are willing to relocate.**

EARNINGS

The median annual wage for surgical technologists according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics is \$57,500 in May 2022. Benefits provided by most employers include paid vacation and sick leave; health, medical, vision, dental, and life insurance; and a retirement program. A few employers also provide tuition reimbursement and child care benefits.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Visit the following websites to learn more about Surgical Technology:

- Association of Surgical Technologists (www.ast.org)
- The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) (www.nbstsa.org)
- Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and surgical assisting (www.arcstsa.org)

Surgical Technology Program Admission Requirements

Requirements prior to applying to the ST Program

1. Completion of all admission requirements to Texas State Technical College.
<https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/surgical-technology-requirements/>
2. Submit official high school and college transcripts from previously attended schools to the Office of Admissions.
3. Applicants for admission to the college are required to take a placement test (i.e. TSI) unless otherwise exempt. For information about exemptions or testing contact the Admissions and Records Office (956-364-4319). Students who do not pass all sections of TSI will be required to remediate the sections not mastered.
4. Complete financial aid application. If you are applying for federal financial aid, complete the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) for the Pell Grant and other financial aid. Contact the financial aid office for more information on other grants, scholarships, student loans, or sponsoring agencies such as WIA, or DARS. Veterans should contact their local VA officer on campus.
5. Must meet with the ST Program **Enrollment Coach, Samantha Resendez (956-364-4336)** to register for the academic course requirements. Advisor will guide the student through the TSI placement test results and general academic process to prepare the student for applying to the SRGT courses.

Steps to be a candidate and apply for the ST Program

1. **Must attend an in person Surgical Technology Program Information Session.** *Dates and times for can be found in the Surgical Technology program website: <http://tstc.edu/surgicaltech>*
2. Completion or in progress to complete semester 1 of Surgical Technology degree plan before applying to the program.
3. Applicants must have a minimum of a 2.0 Grade Point Average and have a minimum of a "C" or better to be accepted.
4. Applicants must have a Social Security Number to obtain employment and admission into the program.
5. **Completion of the Surgical Technology Aptitude Test (HESI).** *Testing dates and times for HESI can be found in the Surgical Technology program website: <http://tstc.edu/surgicaltech>*
6. **Submit an online application to the Surgical Technology Program.**
 - Application must have transcripts, current driver’s license, and up-to-date immunization record uploaded. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
 - Immunizations required: Hepatitis B x3 vaccines, MMR x2, Varicella x2, and Tdap (within 10 years). All immunizations must be validated by the medical facility. All facilities require the COVID vaccine in order to be eligible to participate in clinical rotations.
 - *(Note: Online program application found under “Informational Downloads” towards the bottom of the webpage: <http://tstc.edu/surgicaltech>)*
 - Proof of hospital experience required in order to receive allotted points.
7. **Completion of Criminal Background Check conducted by Group One.**
 - The ST department will email applicants a link once the student has submitted their application.
 - Prior and present felony convictions may restrict admission into the program, depending on the specific nature of the crime. Each circumstance will be reviewed on an individual basis. The background check will be the responsibility of the student. *Must be submitted prior to the close of the application.
8. Students who apply to the fall cohort and are not accepted, but meet the qualifications, will have the opportunity to be selected for the spring cohort without re-submitting an application or background

check. Students will be accepted to the spring cohort based on highest points achieved on the HESI, experience, and GPA. Students can choose to retake the HESI exam for a higher score or keep their original score.

9. The applicant must be in good physical and mental health. The applicant must be able to meet the physical requirements of the educational program, as detailed in the form. Applicant's signature denotes ability to meet the essential physical and mental requirements. In the event that an applicant cannot meet the requirements at any time throughout the entire course, he or she must voluntarily withdraw from the program.

Selection Process for Applicants

1. The program director and academic advisors will review all submitted applications to make sure all forms have been received, are properly completed, and minimum requirements met.
2. Students will be selected to enter SRGT 1405/1409/1491 based on the GPA, the results of the HESI test, completion of required academic courses, completion of required immunizations, and completion of criminal background check. Students will be ranked accordingly and will be accepted into the program. (Admission rank form attached)
3. Students will be notified of their acceptance or non-acceptance via email.
4. The admitted candidates will be notified of a meeting to complete class registration forms and other related forms.

Once accepted to program the following will be required:

1. TB test (at health clinic or your healthcare provider) must be done one week prior to the start of the program. Results must be submitted on 1st class day.
2. Current physical examination from your healthcare provider. Physical forms must be submitted to the clinical coordinator.
3. Completion of all immunizations must be verified by clinical coordinator
4. Drug screen test (test fee \$ 25.00 est.), dates will be set up by the ST department prior to the start of SRGT courses. If a student fails the drug screen test they will automatically be disqualified and not allowed into the SRGT courses.
5. Current seasonal flu shot is required in order to attend clinical. When submitting your flu shot record, it must contain the following information: (Expiration Date, Manufacturer, and Lot Number).
6. **Covid vaccine is highly recommended however not required by TSTC at this time. All hospitals require students to be vaccinated in order to gain privileges to their hospital. The student has the right to refuse vaccination however, it will affect the student's ability to obtain cases towards the 120 required to complete the program and be eligible to take the National Certifying Exam.**

**TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
STUDENT ADMISSION RANK FORM**

Applicant's Name: _____ Id#: _____ Date: _____

Semester: _____ Criteria: _____

Aptitude Test Results: HESI

Composite %: _____

Composite%	Points Awarded
(90)	05
(80)	04
(70)	03
(60)	02
(50)	01

Cumulative GPA Points Awarded

3.5-4.0	15
3.0-3.4	10
2.0-2.9	05

Immunization Complete *Incomplete (Immediate disqualification)

Hepatitis B Series, MMR, Varicella, TDAP, COVID

Drug Screen Passed*

Background Check*

Allied Health Experience

Points Awarded

Qualifying work experience (medical field) (maximum of 5 points)

Post-Secondary Education

Points Awarded

AAS/BA

Qualifying Medical degree (maximum of 5 points)

Other (maximum of 3 points)

Total Points Earned:

Accepted ☐

Not Accepted ☐

Alternate ☐

***(Not to include SRGT courses)**

Total Points: _____

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/ DRUG TESTING POLICY

Purpose

Community Standards for criminal background checks were developed in conjunction with the Valley Health Industry Committee to meet clinical agency compliance with The Joint Commission standards pertaining to human resource management. The Joint Commission requires verification of competency of all individuals who have direct contact with patients or employees; this includes students doing clinical rotations in the facility. Competency extends beyond technical skills to an individual's criminal history.

Successful completion of a criminal background check and drug testing is required for admission into the Surgical Technology Program. Background checks and drug testing will be honored for the duration of the student's enrollment in the clinical program if the participating student has not had a break in the enrollment at the college/school. A break in enrollment is defined as non-attendance of one full semester or more. The above information must be verifiable through the college/school.

Criminal Background Check

Criminal background checks should review a person's criminal history seven (7) years back from the date of application. The check should include the cities and counties of all known residences, not just the Rio Grande Valley area. The following histories will disqualify an individual from consideration for the clinical rotation:

1. Registered sex offenders
2. Health and Human Services- Office of Inspector General List of excluded individuals, U.S. General Services Administration excluded parties list, Employee Misconduct Registry, U.S. Treasury- Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), Texas Health and Human Services Commission, excluded providers in Medicaid and Title XX provider data.
3. Felony convictions
4. Felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons
5. Theft- Class B or above
6. Weapons violations
7. Violence- Class B or above
8. Drugs- Class B or above
9. Abuse and Neglect

Disclaimers

Successful completion of a criminal background check does not ensure future employment. Clinical agencies can establish more stringent standards, if they so desire, to meet regulatory requirements for their facility. Clinical agencies can conduct additional background checks and drug testing at their discretion. If a student is found to be ineligible for clinical placement any time during the program, the student is unable to meet clinical learning objectives and will be withdrawn pending resolution of the situation. DWI-Multiple offenses could affect ability to obtain or retain employment in a health care setting. The student has the right to challenge reported discrepancies upon review, however the student must request in writing to the Surgical Technology program in order to review completed background reports and to verify discrepancies. The student must be cleared of all discrepancies one week prior to the commencement of the program of study in order to be eligible for class admittance.

Allocation of Cost

Cost of the criminal background check and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student. Completion of Criminal Background Check to be conducted by Group one. The cost will be \$45.00

Criminal Background Policy

Texas State Technical College - Surgical Technology Program

STUDENT GUIDELINES: CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK PROCEDURES

I. SCOPE & PURPOSE

A comprehensive criminal background check will be performed on students prior to acceptance to the Surgical Technology Program. Background verifications are required for the primary purpose of safeguarding the well-being of patients, and to ascertain the students' eligibility to maintain program enrollment and to participate in clinical rotation experiences.

II. RATIONALE

All students must consent, submit to, and satisfactorily complete a criminal background investigation as a condition of participation in clinical rotations in the Surgical Technology Program. Any positive findings may be subject to review by the clinical affiliates and could prevent the student from completing clinical requirements. All expenses associated with the CBC are the responsibility of the student. Students who do not consent to the required background check, who refuse to provide information necessary to conduct the background check, or who provide false or misleading information in regard to the background check will not be accepted into the program.

III. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

This procedure will be implemented, monitored, and enforced by the Program Director of the Surgical Technology Program.

A. Criminal Background Check Procedure

Program materials will include instructions for completing the on-line application process and a release/consent form that authorizes GroupOne (the vendor), on behalf of the Surgical Technology Program at TSTC, to conduct a comprehensive criminal background investigation on all prospective surgical technology students. Students who refuse to complete these inquiries, do not answer truthfully and completely, or refuse to consent to a criminal background check will not be allowed to enter the program. Information available/sought through background screening/investigation process. The following databases are examples of those that may be examined as part of the comprehensive criminal background check (CBC).

i. County Criminal Research

Specific inquiries into county court records for felony and misdemeanor charges require hands-on research of physical and digital courthouse records. These searches are performed at more than 3100 county criminal courts across the United States and still remain the most accurate form of criminal background checks available today.

ii. Federal Criminal Research

Because violations of federal law are not usually found in county records, GroupOne will search through federal records that can span statewide or nationally. Our research taps into the

criminal and civil cases of 94 federal and judicial districts including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and three territories-the U.S Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands where federal and bankruptcy cases are heard.

iii. Multi-State Criminal and Sex Offender Database Check

To support county searches, GroupOne can perform multi-state investigations that scrape the criminal databases of several states at once.

iv. Statewide Criminal Database Checks

Many states maintain repositories of criminal information submitted by county courts and local law enforcement. GroupOne uses these sources to supplement county criminal research to produce a more comprehensive background.

v. Sex Offender Registry

Not all states maintain a registry of convicted sex offenders. GroupOne searches the National Sex Offender Public website to find the current address of convicted offenders registered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S Territories and U.S Native American Tribes.

B. Consideration of Criminal Background Activities

The existence of a felony conviction, alone, does not automatically disqualify a student from entering clinical rotation experience. Relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to: the date, nature, and number of convictions; the relationship the conviction bears to the duties and responsibilities of the position; and successful efforts toward rehabilitation. Any decision to allow a student to enter a clinical rotation with a conviction is solely at the discretion of the clinical affiliate.

C. Examination of Information Obtained Through Criminal Background Investigations

The criminal background check will include a record of all arrests, convictions, and dismissals. For the purposes of this policy, a conviction is considered to be a guilty plea, a guilty verdict, Alford Plea, or a Nolo Contendere (“No Contest”) plea.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all maiden names and aliases are reported and to ensure that any misinformation in the initial criminal background check report is corrected, and to ensure that a written statement with supporting documentation indicating the correction is submitted to the College.

All positive findings will be reported, as required by clinical affiliation agreements, to each local hospital whose Human Resources department will review the initial criminal background check report results for all conditionally admitted students.

A positive report may affect students’ progression in the program. Any student who disagrees with the accuracy of information found in the background investigation process should seek independent legal counsel in their efforts to obtain a clear report.

IV. BACKGROUND CHECK REVIEW PROCESS

The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will be responsible for reviewing all relevant materials related to any adverse background check report containing information that pertains to the student's suitability for participation in clinical rotations.

A student with a positive background check may be asked to write a letter of explanation that may be sent to the human resources departments of the clinical affiliates along with the background check findings to assist in their fair review of the students' screening results. Factors involved in the individual case review by the clinical affiliate may include, but not be limited to the:

- nature, circumstances, and frequency of any reported offense(s);
- length of time since the offense(s);
- available information that addresses efforts at rehabilitation;
- accuracy of the information provided by the applicant in their application materials; and
- the relationship between the duties to be performed as part of the educational program and the offense committed.

V. COLLEGE PRACTICE FOR REVIEW OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

- a. The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will report any positive student background check findings (in a non-identifying manner) to clinical affiliates as required by clinical affiliation agreements, to obtain an individual decision, determined on a case-by-case basis, as to the clinical facility's consideration of the student's eligibility for on-site rotations. If the Program Director receives a denial of entrance into clinical rotations based upon the student's background check records, and is unable to successfully place the student in required clinical rotations, the student will be notified in writing that their enrollment in the program will not continue because of ineligibility for completion of clinical requirements of the program.
- b. It is NOT the responsibility of the College or any member of the College to actively resolve any issue for the student. If the student has questions about the report, feels the report contains erroneous information, or includes other factors such as a guilty plea or conviction that has been expunged, the burden is on the student to resolve the issue(s). There is an appeal process available through the GroupOne web-site: <https://gp1.com/consumer-info/>. The student may wish to contact a personal attorney to address the issues with the appropriate legal authorities. If a resolution is reached, the student may provide the Program Director with an updated report following the procedures outlined previously.

VI. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Information obtained for the purpose of and during the criminal background check, will be retained by the Surgical Technology program separate from other student educational and academic records. Confidentiality will be maintained consistent with FERPA guidelines.

VII. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Applicants and/or admitted students must be aware that:

- The expense for the background check must be borne by the student and will be paid directly to GroupOne. An individual criminal background check fee is \$49. Such costs are subject to change, and beyond the control of the Surgical Technology Program.
- At this time the NBSTSA, the National Board of Surgical Assisting, does not require a criminal

background check to be eligible to take the National Certifying Exam.

- **If a student fails to pass a criminal background check, he or she may be ineligible to participate in clinical courses, ineligible for program completion/graduation, and therefore ineligible to continue in the program. The student understands that voluntary withdrawal from the program will be required.**
- **Students who are currently serving probation or parole are considered ineligible candidates for the program.**
- ***Students with unresolved criminal charges or have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude (i.e. Murder, Voluntary Manslaughter, Felony hit and run, Family violence, kidnapping, Drug crimes, Kidnapping, Fraud, Theft, Robbery) will be ineligible to enter the program.**
- Texas State Technical College and the Surgical Technology Program does not accept responsibility for any student being ineligible to participate in clinical experience, owing to failure to pass a criminal background check.
- Students who provide any false information regarding criminal offenses in any documents may be subject to immediate dismissal from the program pending confirmation via a hearing body convened as provided in student disciplinary policy due process rights.
- **Any student arrested while enrolled in the program must report that offense to the Program Director in writing within 5 days of arrest. Based on the nature of the offense a decision will be made by the Program Director to determine if the student is able to continue with clinical practice.**

VIII. ON-LINE BACKGROUND CHECK APPLICATION PROCEDURE

a. Background Check as Requirement of Clinical Affiliation Agreements

These background checks will be conducted by one private vendor (GroupOne). Each student must complete the comprehensive criminal background check online through <https://gp1.com> by providing their personal information for the background check.

b. GroupOne

GroupOne is a background check service that allows students to apply for their own background check. The results of a background check are posted to the [group one.com](https://groupone.com) website in a secure and tamper-proof environment. The Program Director is the only authorized person to view the results upon completion. Any negative findings will be shared with the student. The student can request a PDF copy of their background results from the program director. The results will be available in approximately 1-2 weeks.

Drug Testing Guidelines

1. Health students entering any of the Valley Area Hospitals must meet the Community Standards criteria to participate in clinical.
2. All student reports will be submitted to the Surgical Technology Program Department.
3. Any student found to have illegal or unauthorized drugs in their drug screen test will not be allowed to attend clinical for a year and will need to reapply for admission or readmission depending on their status. Subsequent approval to attend will depend on a clean drug test.
4. **Drug screen tests will be conducted prior to the first semester of SRGT courses.**
5. **A random drug screen test may be conducted during SRGT 1461 or SRGT 2462. Please be advised that any concern or allegation of drug use will require further investigation and may result in automatic dismissal of the program if a student refuses to take a drug test.**

Clinical Entry Requirements

1. Current physical examination with all of the required immunizations.
2. The student must purchase malpractice (liability) insurance, needle stick and accident insurance by the first week of class.
3. Each student is responsible for his/her own health care insurance during enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program.
 - All Surgical Technology students who have a course with a clinical component will be required to show proof of personal medical health insurance coverage. Students must obtain this at their own expense and maintain it for the duration that the student is in the program. Students that fail to provide proof of health insurance will be removed from the program.
4. The student must complete and obtain a passing grade in a CPR class.
5. The student must purchase all required uniforms and supplies to attend hospital rotations.
6. The student must have completed the Hepatitis B series, MMR, Varicella two shot series, Tdap, and TB, Flu and Covid Vaccine.

Note: Applicants should be aware that meeting all the Surgical Technology criteria, achieving passing grades throughout the curriculum, and completing the entire curriculum does not guarantee employment in the Surgical Technology field.

The State of Texas now requires the Certified Surgical Technologist credential in order to gain employment.

Clinical Experience

The student will continue with theory classes and will participate in clinical experience at various area hospitals. Presently, the Surgical Technology Program is affiliated with many different entities such as hospitals, surgery centers and eye clinics. Any concerns regarding the attendance of a clinical site must be addressed to the clinical instructor and program director prior to clinical rotation changes. Students will be evaluated by a clinical instructor randomly throughout the semester. The affiliated hospital personnel, preceptors and management give supervision. Clinical instructors will receive a weekly report on the student's performance.

Students are not paid for the learning experiences. Clinical Internships are not a requirement of the Surgical Technology degree requirement. Students who choose to accept an internship with a local facility will hold a separate obligation with that employer. **Students are not allowed to be paid during assigned clinical hours.**

No visible Tattoos or body piercing are allowed: all visible tattoos must be covered during clinical experiences. Visible Body piercing will not be allowed in the clinical setting

Students are required to have their own transportation for clinical rotation. The clinical rotation placement can be from Mission, Texas to Brownsville, Texas, and point's in-between.

Students are expected to be punctual and well prepared when attending the clinical sites. Preceptor forms will be submitted to the clinical instructor on a weekly basis.

Health science students should be aware that many of the facilities where they receive clinical training require each student to be covered by various forms of insurance.

The required insurance should be Health, Accident, Needle Stick, and Liability insurance, but many facilities do not require all four kinds. Students can purchase Accident, Needle Stick, and Liability if needed through TSTC; however, TSTC does not provide the ability to purchase Health Insurance. TSTC may require proof of coverage prior to enrollment prior to placement at a clinical site, and clinical site personnel may ask for proof of coverage at any time. Students may be denied access to clinical experience if not covered by the required insurance. Failure of students to obtain required insurance will prevent the students from attending some facilities which will probably prevent students from completing the program or cause them to fail the program. Should a student be denied clinical experience due to lack of insurance coverage, TSTC cannot adjust grades or credits or make any other adjustments.

Tuition and Expenses

The actual cost of attending Texas State Technical College includes tuition and fees, book and tools, in addition to the cost of transportation and/or campus housing. Tuition and fees are based on the number of credit hours taken and whether in or out-of-state tuition is paid. Most students take from 8 to 12 credit hours per semester.

Submitting the financial aid application is as important as the application for admission. Any questions regarding financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office at (956) 364-4337.

ST fees

Surgical Technology Uniforms X 2	\$130.00
ST Program Polo shirt	\$20.00
Approximate cost for all textbooks	\$800.00
Approximate cost for all software	\$855.00
HESI Entrance Exam	\$54.00
Criminal Background Check	\$69.00
Drug Screen Test	\$25.00
Physical Exam	See your Physician
CPR *Taken through TSTC	\$20.00
AST Membership, CST Exam Eligibility Fee	\$250.00
CBSPD Exam	\$128.00
Immunizations required: Tdap, MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis B, PPD (TB Test) and Flu shot, Covid Recommended	See your Physician
Please be informed students are required to travel to area hospitals from Brownsville to Mission in for SRGT 1461 - Clinical I and SRGT 2462 - Clinical II 3 days out of the week from 6:30am -3pm. Clinical experience is required to meet the 120 clinical cases required to graduate the program. Gas and meal expenses will vary depending on student travel assignments.	Gas & meal expenses
TOTAL *Estimates only - prices may vary from semester to semester	\$2351.00