



# Surgical Technology

Texas State Technical College Harlingen



# Student Learning Objectives

- Students will learn program description and expectations.
- Students will learn about job outlook, projected salary and career advancement.



# Surgical Technology Program

- First class accepted in 1970.
- The Surgical Technology Program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). CAAHEP accredits Surgical Technology Programs upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC-STSA). The program received accreditation on October 15, 1999.
- Changed to an Associate Degree program in 2001.
- Maintains affiliation agreements with 16 local hospitals for diverse clinical training.
- Offers online didactic courses and face to face clinical experience.
- Historical Job Placement Rates over 95%.
- Historical National Exam Pass Rates over 82%.

A blurred surgical scene. In the foreground, a person wearing blue scrubs and a surgical mask is leaning over a table covered with a blue cloth. The table is set with various surgical instruments, including several long, thin metal rods, a pair of forceps, and a pair of scissors. A blue container with a white cloth inside is also visible. The background is out of focus, showing other people in blue scrubs and a surgical light fixture.

Do you want to be a  
Surgical Technologist?

# History of the Surgical Technologist

- Records indicate that a greater demand for surgical technologists occurred during both World Wars. When nurses were not available, such as on combat ships, corpsmen worked under the direct supervision of the surgeons. In this way a new profession was born, and the Army referred to these corpsmen as operating room technicians. (ORT's).
- In 1968 the AORN board of directors created the Association of Operating Room Technicians (AORT). Which led to the formal training for the civilian ORT in proprietary schools across the United States. In 1973 the AORT became independent from the AORN, and the profession changed its title to the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST).

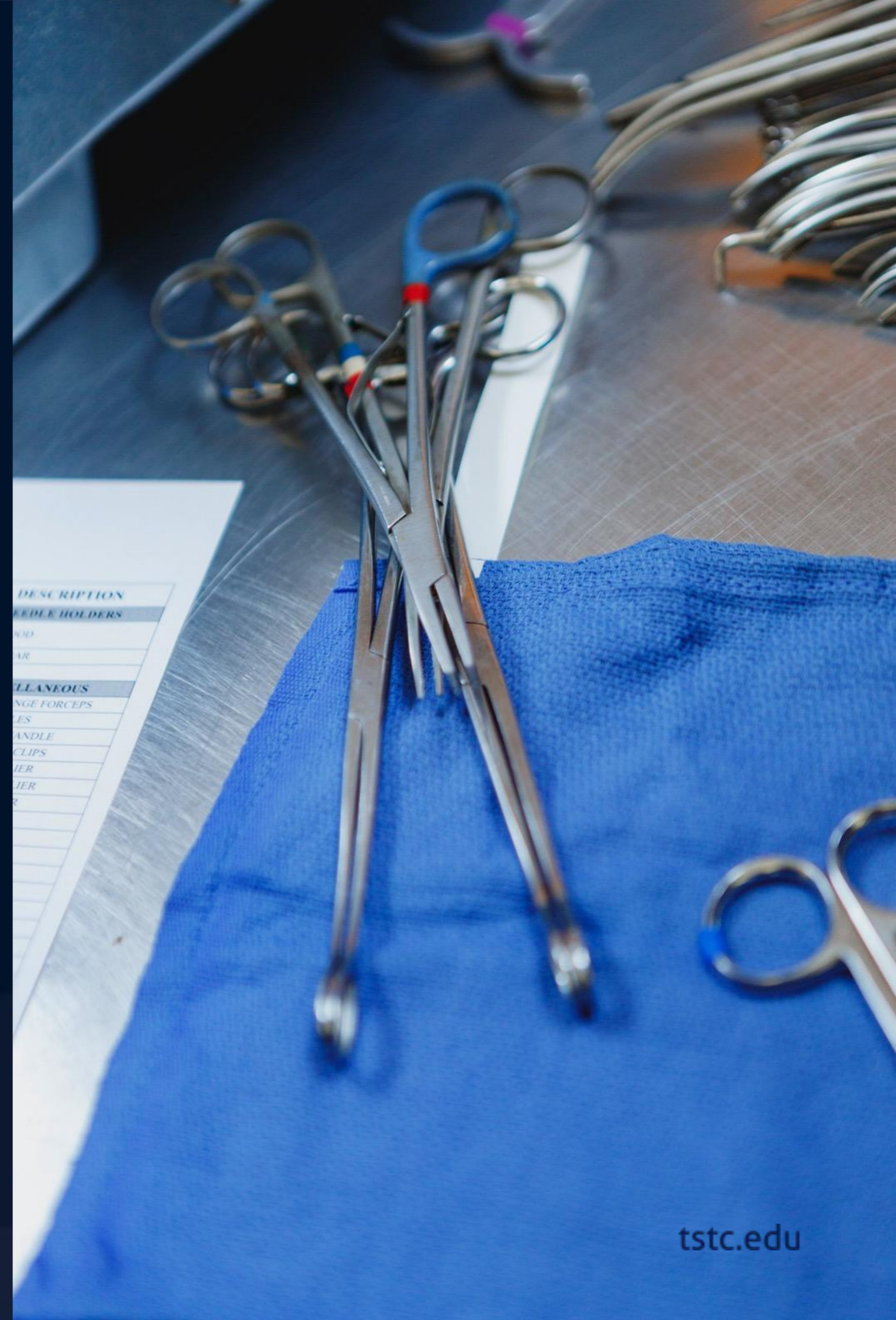
# Association of Surgical Technologists

- AST's primary purpose is to ensure that surgical technologists have the knowledge and skills to administer patient care of the highest quality and is the principal provider in conjunction with AST state organizations of continuing education for surgical technologists.

AST also works with ARC/STSA and NBSTSA to set standards for education and certification and represents the profession at state and national levels to ensure graduation from a CAAHEP accredited program in surgical technology and that all surgical technologists attain the CST credential as a condition of employment.

# Program Description

- TSTC offers a Hybrid Program providing online didactic instruction and a supervised clinical/lab experience in a face to face setting. Students take courses in anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, biology, professional ethics, medical terminology, speech, 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.



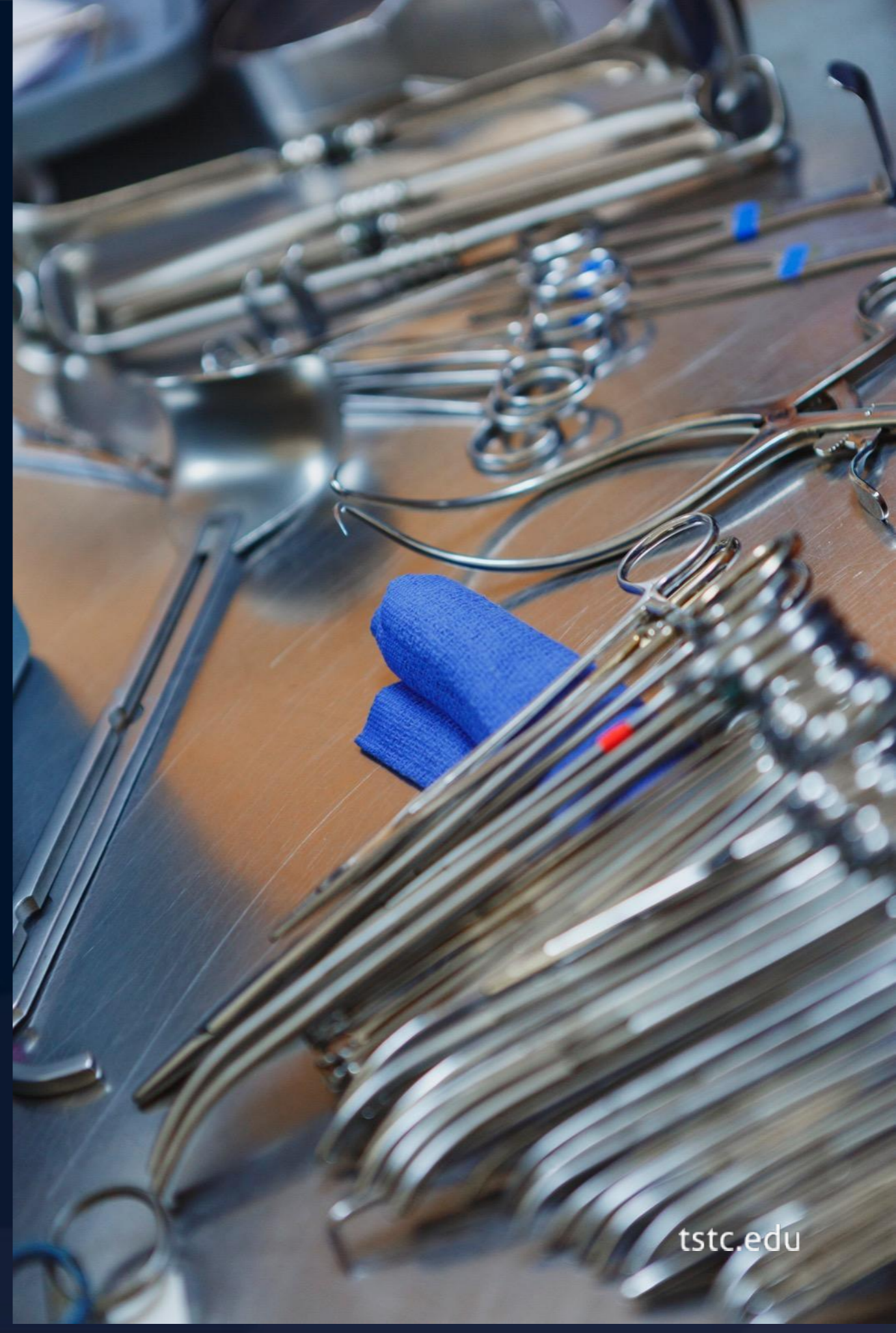




# Program Expectations

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 in patients' and surgeons' needs.
- Ability and interest 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.



# Program Expectations continued

- 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 of time 4 to 6 hours or longer.
- Ability to reach and lift heavy (50 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.
- At times may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials

# Must possess the following characteristics:

- Personal integrity
- Emotional Stability
- Flexibility
- Ability to establish and maintain effective interpersonal relationships
- 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

# Must possess the following characteristics: (continued)

- Must be chemically free
- Must be free of active contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, etc
- 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.

# Career Outlook

Most graduates are employed by hospitals, mainly in operating rooms and delivery rooms. Others are employed in clinics, surgical centers, and in the office of physicians and dentists who perform outpatient surgery. A few technologists, known as private scrubs, are employed directly by surgeons who have special surgical teams, such as those for liver and kidney transplants.



Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and willing to relocate. Texas graduates must be certified in order to gain employment.

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations.

# Projected Salary

Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and for those who are willing to relocate.

With the Rio Grande Valley's rapidly growing population, quality healthcare has become vital to the area's existence. Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2022 as the volume of surgery increases. The number of surgical procedures is expected to rise as the population grows and ages.

Technological advances, such as fiber optics and laser technology, will also permit new surgical procedures to be performed.

Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer of surgical technologists, although much faster employment growth is expected in offices of physicians and in outpatient care centers, including ambulatory surgical centers.

- Vary by state: According to AST, the median hourly rate in Texas is \$27.40
- 2022 Median Salary according to BLS
  - \$53,930 per year
  - \$25.93 per hour



# Career Advancement

Technologists advance by specializing in a particular area of surgery, such as neurosurgery or open-heart surgery. They also may work as circulating technologists. With additional training, some technologists advance to first assistant. Some surgical technologists manage central supply departments in hospitals or take positions with insurance companies, sterile supply services, and operating equipment firms.

Advancement for most Surgical Technicians means an increase in pay which comes with additional experience, training, or certification. Some may advance to operating room supervisors, directing other technicians, or become assistant operating room administrators who order supplies and arrange work schedules among other administrative duties. They may advance to become Surgical First Assistants. With additional education and training, Surgical Technicians may advance to become registered nurses or physicians assistants.

# TSTC Admission Requirements

1. Complete TSTC admission process.
  - Applicants must have earned a high school diploma or a GED certificate.
2. Schedule an appointment to meet with ST Enrollment Coach, Samantha Resendez
  - All students must be TSI complete.
  - Register for academic course requirements
3. A program-specific application submitted to the Surgical Technology Program.



# Student Health Requirements

"Health science students should be aware that many of the facilities where they will receive clinical training require each student to be covered by various forms of insurance. The required insurance could be Health, Accident, Needle Stick and Liability insurance, but many facilities do not require all four kinds. Students are covered with Accident, Needle Stick and Liability through TSTC; however, TSTC does not provide the ability to purchase Health Insurance. TSTC may request proof of coverage prior to enrollment or 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 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."

# Surgical Technology Program Program Requirements

- Applicants must complete semester 1 of the Surgical Technology degree plan before applying to the program.
- Applicants must have a minimum of a 2.0 Grade Point Average and have a minimum of a "C" or better in academic courses to be accepted.
- Applicants must have a Social Security Number to obtain employment and admission into the program.
- Current Immunization documentation to include Hepatitis B series, Proof of MMR, Varicella, Tdap, and Covid
- Current physical examination from personal physician. 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 technical standard and essential functions.

# Surgical Technology Program Application Requirements

- ❑ Step 1: Register and attend a Surgical Technology program information session.
  - Program application requirements listed below will be discussed in the information session.
- ❑ Step 2: Register to take the Surgical Technology HESI A2 with Critical Thinking Entrance Exam
- ❑ Step 3: 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.
- ❑ Step 4: Complete Criminal Background Check
  - The ST department will email applicants a link once the student has submitted their application.

# Selection Process for Applicants

- 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.
- 30 Students will be selected each Fall and Spring semester to enter SRGT 1405/1409/1491 based on the results of the HESI A2 with critical thinking entrance exam, completion of prerequisites, immunizations, criminal background check, and successfully passing a drug screen test. Students will be ranked accordingly and will be accepted into the program.
- All other applicants will be placed on a waiting list based on total points. If an opening occurs in the program prior to the start of the academic year, students on the waiting list may be called.
- The accepted candidates will be notified of a mandatory meeting to complete class registration forms and other related forms.

# Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing Guidelines

- Health students entering any of the Valley Area Hospitals must meet the Community Standards criteria to participate in clinical.
- The criminal background check is performed by GroupOne. Students will schedule and appointment directly with GroupOne.
- No reports are sent directly to the clinical facilities unless the background is not clear. The college will send written notification to the facility stating that the students have been approved for the clinical site if there are no reports that prohibit their attendance.
- Students accepted to the program with prior offenses will require additional vetting from the various clinical affiliates. Students are advised of the possibility of being denied privileges to clinical sites as a result of their background. If a student is unable to obtain privileges the student will be advised to voluntarily withdraw from the program.

# Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing Guidelines (continued)

- 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 depending on their status. Subsequent approval to attend will depend on a clean drug test.
- Drug screen test will be conducted prior to the first semester of SRGT courses.
- A random drug screen test may be conducted during SRGT 1461 or SRGT 2462.

# What to Expect After Acceptance

Reliable transportation is imperative.

A flexible schedule is necessary as your schedule will vary.

## Clinical Experience:

- Students will continue with theory classes (online) and will participate in clinical experience at various area hospitals. The ST Program is affiliated with many hospitals, day surgery clinics and eye clinics. Students are evaluated by a clinical instructor randomly throughout the semester. Supervision is provided by the affiliated hospital personnel and management. Clinical instructors will receive a weekly report on the student's performance.
- Students are expected to be punctual and well-prepared when attending the clinical sites. Students Performance Evaluation will be submitted to the clinical instructor on a weekly basis.

# What type of surgery will I participate in?

Surgical technologists are trained in several areas which include:

- General
- Orthopedic
- Neuro
- Plastic and Reconstructive
- Obstetric/ Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- ENT
- Cardiovascular
- Genitourinary
- Thoracic
- Transplant





# What will I be called when I complete the program?

- Certification is conferred by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). Initial certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST®) is based upon satisfactory performance on the national certifying examination following completion of a CAAHEP accredited program in surgical technology.
- CSTs maintain their credential by completing continuing education (CE) credits of AST approved continuing education during the two-year certification cycle or by successfully retaking the certifying examination at the end of the two-year period.

# Credentials

- Certification is conferred by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). Initial certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST®) is based upon satisfactory performance on the national certifying examination following completion of a CAAHEP accredited program in surgical technology.
- CSTs maintain their credential by completing continuing education (CE) credits of AST approved continuing education during the two-year certification cycle or by successfully retaking the certifying examination at the end of the two-year period.

# Opportunities for Advancement

- CST
- Leveling/ Clinical Ladder
- SFA/CFA (First Assistant)
- Education (Surgical Tech Instructor)
- Sales Rep
- Sterile Processing Supervisor



# How to Get Started

- You have already completed the first step by viewing this presentation.
- Next step is to attend a program information session
- connect with the ST enrollment coach, Samantha Resendez
  - Email: [samantha.resendez@tstc.edu](mailto:samantha.resendez@tstc.edu)
  - Office: 956-364-4336
- Register for courses following the ST degree plan
- Applications will be accepted twice a year in June and October. Therefore be sure to check in with your enrollment coach to be sure you have everything you need to be a candidate for the Fall or Spring semester.

# Resources

- Bureau of Labor Statistics [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm)
- O\*Net <http://online.onetcenter.org/>
- TSTC Surgical Technology Site <https://tstc.edu/programs/SurgicalTechnology>