

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Quarter Credit Hours Required = 96

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology is designed to prepare graduates for career opportunities in the surgical field and includes a general education component which complements the comprehensive skills-based specialty training. The Surgical Technologist works closely with the surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurse anesthetist, and registered nurse to deliver integral patient care before, during, and after surgery. Emphasis is placed on the proper application of sterile surgical techniques and modern operating room technology to provide optimum patient care. Classroom theory and laboratory hands-on training is supplemented with clinical and externship experiences to make for a comprehensive curriculum of study.

Upon successful completion of this program, students should be able to

- exhibit practical proficiency in the surgical arena with an understanding of the basic procedures involved with surgical operations;
- describe the essential working aspects of a successful Surgical Technologist;
- demonstrate the ability to perform in a healthcare environment meeting OSHA specifications;
- recognize the importance of confidentiality when dealing with surgical patients;
- analyze the departure from classroom theory to on-the-job training in the operating room;
- develop effective communication and decision-making skills for successful performance in the surgical environment;
- integrate knowledge of personal and medical ethics into the surgical arena;
- develop a familiarity with commonly used surgical instruments;
- establish and maintain high standards of aseptic technique;
- analyze and adapt to the ever-changing operating room environment;
- function in the healthcare arena by providing clinical and administrative skills in a surgical setting; and
- coordinate a successful job search.

FOUNDATION:

Quarter Credit Hours

EDU 1010	Learning Framework.....	4
EDU 1020	Career Exploration/Planning.....	4
Total Minimum Required Foundation Credits		8

AREA OF CONCENTRATION:

BIO 1120	Anatomy and Physiology: Body Structures	4
BIO 1130	Anatomy and Physiology: Organs and Systems	4
MED 1010	Medical Terminology	4
MED 1140	Medical Law and Ethics	4
MED 1210	Pathophysiology	4
SUR 1010	Aseptic Technique	4
SUR 1050	Patient Care for the Surgical Technologist	4
SUR 1500	Introduction to the Surgical Environment	4
SUR 1900	Microbiology for the Surgical Technologist.....	4
SUR 1960	Surgical Instrumentation and Equipment	4
SUR 2070	General and Specialized Surgical Procedures	4
SUR 2160	Specialty and Reconstructive Surgical Procedures	4
SUR 2170	Orthopaedic, Neurological, and Vascular Surgical Procedures	4
SUR 2190	Pharmacology for the Surgical Technologist.....	4
SUR 2600	Surgical Technologist Externship.....	8
Total Minimum Required Area of Concentration Credits.....		64

GENERAL EDUCATION:

These courses are to be selected in consultation with the Program Director so as to effectuate a balanced educational program. Select a total (minimum) of 24 credit hours as indicated below:

Communications	12
Humanities and Fine Arts	4
Mathematics.....	4
Social and Behavioral Sciences	4
Total Minimum Required General Education Credits	24

TOTAL MINIMUM QUARTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED 96

To meet requirements for AST Certification, students must, during externship, serve as first scrub in cases where 80 is considered minimum, 125 considered normal, and 150 is exceptional.

Note: Successful completion of the national certification examination is required for employment as a surgical technologist in South Carolina. A Surgical Technology program must be accredited by CAAHEP or ABHES in order for graduates to be eligible to sit for the national certification examination. The campus is seeking appropriate accreditation with the goal of having such accreditation in place by the time the first Surgical Technology class graduates.