

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION
PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students applying to the Surgical Technology (ST) program must demonstrate sufficient physical and emotional health to be considered fit to participate in academic education and laboratory experiences, and to practice clinically with the public in a safe and effective manner.

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (not inclusive)
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess critical thinking ability sufficient for problem solving & clinical judgment • Ability to be oriented to time, place, and person, organize responsibilities, and make quick appropriate decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and prioritize; arranging instrumentation or actions in a certain order/pattern according to specific rules; must be able to bring together and relate the similarities of surgical procedures & situations in order to function on unfamiliar procedures. • Concentrate for prolonged periods of time in a sterile environment. • Need to quickly assess needs for surgical procedures, anticipate surgeon's needs.
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display patience, empathy and concern for others. • Deal with fear and hostility in a calm manner. • Work with others in stressful situations. • Receive constructive feedback positively.
Communication	Sufficient written and oral skills to communicate needs promptly and effectively, express and exchange ideas, and interact with patients, surgeons, peers, and other medical personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to communicate in a concise manner (able to get to the point). • Must be able to speak clearly and respectfully. • Must be able to restate, rephrase, and reframe ideas (paraphrase) to ensure clear understanding of orders/direction given by surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, peers and other medical personnel. • The surgical technology student must be able to complete surgical counts prior to the beginning of the procedure, during the procedure and upon completion of the procedure without interruptions; must also be able to communicate/relay information about the patient, the surgical procedure, and the surgeon(s) to relief personnel in order to facilitate a smooth transition from one surgical technologist to another. • Must be able to communicate needs during an emergency situation intraoperatively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The surgical technology student must be able to verbally request additional sponges in the event of a hemorrhage.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move around in operating rooms without contaminating sterile workspaces. • Must also be able to work in a small area without contaminating him/herself and the surgical team.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care, as well as providing a safe and effective environment for the surgical team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass surgical knives, hypodermic needles, and sharp instrumentation without causing injury to the patient, him/herself or to the remainder of the surgical team; handle fine sutures and delicate instrumentation; position and transport patients. • Respond promptly to the surgeon's/patient's needs, • Manipulate equipment, • Lift a minimum of 50 pounds, exert a sustained force of 20 pounds, push/pull mobile equipment weighing up to 300 pounds. • Stand in sterile scrub attire for prolonged periods (sometimes wearing a 12-20 pound lead apron underneath the gown). • Walk an equivalent of 5 miles per day.

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (not inclusive)
Tactile Skills	Shall possess tactile ability to sufficiently handle all the microscopic supplies, instruments, and equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loading fine sutures onto needle drivers and for passing to the surgeon delicate instrumentation; good hand eye coordination; keep hands and arms steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position. Implantable items for patients may be very delicate, in combination with sterile surgical gloves, some supplies and instruments require very delicate manipulation.
Visual	Visual ability and acuity sufficient for observation and assessment necessary during a surgical procedure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling fine sutures and 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.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and access health needs of the patient, & maintain facility safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, & commands given by the surgeon and the circulating nurse.
Weight Bearing	Should possess the ability to maneuver/move/lift 40-50 pounds, daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift a tray of surgical instruments; position patients and move equipment. • Lifting extremity. • Standing for a surgical procedure that may last several hours.
Occupational Exposures	The ST student is at high risk for exposure to blood and body fluids, toxic substances, anesthetic preparations, and chemical sterilization practices at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathogens (HIV, AIDS, HBV, MRSA, TB) • Bone cement, ethylene oxide, radiation, electricity, gases. • Sharp instrumentation.
Emotional	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient death. • Different personalities. • Physical stressors as room temperatures, noises, odors, patient conditions, and standing for a long period of time either in an ergonomically or non-ergonomical position). • The student must be able to cope effectively with stress in the workplace; cope with patient & colleague emotions calmly; while demonstrating a high degree of patience.

A prospective student with a disability which may impact upon their ability to provide patient care, should contact [Accessibility Services](#).

I certify that I have read the Essential skills for Admission and Progression form. I certify that I understand the physical and psychological requirements needed for providing safe surgical technology care. I have assessed my ability to perform these skills and am able to demonstrate these essential skills.

Student Signature _____

Date _____