

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM BROCHURE

Program Name:

Surgical Technology

Type of Diploma, Certificate, or Degree

Surgical Technology Diploma

Or

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology (AAS)

Overview of Program

A surgical technologist (ST) is an allied health professional who works as part of the surgical team to ensure that the operative procedure is completed under optimal conditions. Surgical Technologists work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses and other key surgical personnel in hospital operating rooms and outpatient surgery centers. Surgical Technologists function during all phases of the operative procedure by maintaining the sterile field and assisting the surgical team throughout the case. Surgical Technologists play a critical role in surgical patient care.

The Iowa Lakes Community College Surgical Technology Diploma and Associate of Applied Science degree program at the Spencer Campus is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC-ST).

Students are eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) Credentialing Exam offered by The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Outlook of job market or program

Surgical technologists held about 84,000 jobs in 2004. About 7 out of 10 jobs for surgical technologists were in hospitals, mainly in operating and delivery rooms. Other jobs were in offices of physicians or dentists who perform outpatient surgery and in outpatient care centers, including ambulatory surgical centers. A few, known as private scrubs, are employed directly by surgeons who have special surgical teams.

Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through the year 2014 as the volume of surgery increases. Job opportunities are expected to be good. The number of surgical procedures is expected to rise as the population grows and ages. The number of older people, including the baby boom generation, who generally require

more surgical procedures, will account for a larger portion of the general population. Technological advances, such as fiber optics and laser technology, will permit an increasing number of new surgical procedures to be performed and also will allow surgical technologists to assist with a greater number of procedures.

Median annual earnings of surgical technologists were \$34,010 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$28,560 and \$40,750. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$23,940, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$45,990.

According to the Association of Surgical Technologists the average starting wage in Iowa was \$15.05 and \$18.58 in Minnesota.

Employment Possibilities after completing the program

Hospitals

Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Surgeon's Offices and Clinics

Dental/Orthodontic Offices

Veterinary Offices

Medical Corporations as Equipment or Product Representative

Traveling Surgical Technologist

Surgical Technology Educator

Surgical Assistant

Requirements to enter program & graduation options:

Application to the college

ASSET/COMPASS Exam or qualifying ACT Scores

GED Score/High School and/or Previous College Transcripts

Physical Exam with proof of required immunizations

State and/or Federal Background Check

Interview with Program Coordinator

A brief look into coursework

Surgical Technology Curriculum follows a science-based coursework. Some courses include: Anatomy and Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology and Medical Terminology. Surgical Technology Core-courses consist of a combination of lecture and hands-on skills taught in a mock operating room. Students are also provided with non-paid practical experience during two semesters at are hospitals. The practicum externship allows students to apply coursework that they've learned in both large and small hospitals, as well as a chance to experience scrubbing for diverse surgical specialties. This enables the student to better determine where they'd most like to work following graduation.

Students begin their ST Coursework in the fall but students should enroll either the spring or summer semester prior to ST enrollment to get started on Anatomy & Physiology and Medical Terminology. This will lighten their fall credit load.

Contact Information:

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What student will get out of program?

Students will be given a well rounded education that provides them with skills to enter a professional career. Students are taught up to date information with state of the art equipment by instructors that are still working in the medical field part-time. Students are also provided with networking opportunities throughout professional conferences and a student mentoring program. Students will find that they haven't just taken a class, but that they have entered a profession that can take them anywhere!

Surgical Technologists:

**Provide some direct patient care
Prepare and maintain the sterile field
Pass instruments, supplies, medications and equipment to surgeon
Assist surgeons
Count sponges, needles and instruments
Retract Tissue
Cut suture
Assess and anticipate the needs of the surgeon**

Description of the Profession

Surgical technologists are integral members of the surgical team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel in delivering patient care and assuming appropriate

responsibilities before, during, and after surgery. Scrub, circulating, and second assisting surgical technologists have primary responsibility for maintaining the sterile field, being constantly vigilant that all members of the team adhere to aseptic technique.

Scrub Surgical Technologist

The scrub surgical technologist handles the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure. He/she has an understanding of the procedure being performed and anticipates the needs of the surgeon. He/she has the necessary knowledge and ability to ensure quality patient care during the operative procedure and is constantly on vigil for maintenance of the sterile field.

Circulating Surgical Technologist

The circulating surgical technologist obtains additional instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary while the surgical procedure is in progress. He/she monitors conditions in the operating room and constantly assesses the needs of the patient and surgical team.

Second Assisting Surgical Technologist

The second assisting surgical technologist assists the surgeon and/or first assistant during the operative procedure by carrying out technical tasks other than cutting, clamping, and suturing of tissue. This role is distinct from that of the first assistant and may, in some circumstances, be performed at the same time as the scrub role.

Professional affiliations and certificates

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST)

Iowa State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists (IASA)

Accreditation Review on Education in Surgical Technology Education (ARC-ST)

National Certification Board for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)

All Area Hospitals and Surgical Centers for practical experience

Graduation options:

The ST Program is designed as a 1 + 1. One year for the diploma and one year for the AAS Degree. ST students have the option of choosing a diploma in Surgical Technology which requires completion of 45 credits throughout three semesters (11 months). Students can then complete the AAS Degree on

a part-time or full-time basis if they wish to continue. Surgical Technologists are hired with either diplomas or degrees and can begin work immediately following graduation.

Qualifications and skills needed

Individuals who want to enter the field of surgical technology need manual dexterity because they must handle instruments quickly. They must also be alert, conscientious, orderly, and emotionally stable to handle the demands of surgeons. Surgical technologists need to have stamina and be able to work on their feet through out operations that may last several hours.