

Surgical Technology

WHO: A Surgical Technologist (ST) assists the surgeon, registered nurse and anesthesia care provider with care of the surgical patient.

WHAT: The ST arranges the supplies and the instruments needed and hands these to the surgeon during the procedure. She/ He may retract tissue, suction fluids, and assemble complex equipment. After the procedure, he and the nurse transfer the patient to the postoperative unit. Then, they clear away the used materials.

HOW: Knowledge of Surgical Anatomy and Physiology allows the ST to comprehend the surgical procedures. The fundamentals of Conceptual Physics help him understand the workings of complex surgical equipment and ways to protect him and others from harm. Infection Control practices such as Sterilization & Disinfection, and Aseptic Technique, are based on lessons in Microbiology. In order to ensure the safety of the patient, the student also studies O.R. Pharmacology so as to assist the surgeon with administration.



WHERE: An ST can work in hospital operating rooms, free-standing ambulatory surgery centers, clinics, and surgeons' offices. With experience and further training, he can specialize in a particular service, become a Team Leader, or take the position of the Central Services Manager.

WHEN: A typical day for an ST starts at 7 am. The ST and the nurse are assigned to a single operating room where a wide variety of surgical procedures may be scheduled. One day, for example, a patient may need their tonsils removed; another may arrive with a broken arm; later the Surgical Team may assist with the use of robots to remove a tumor from the lung.

WHY: Surgery is a complex activity where the surgeon relies on well-trained personnel to ensure everything is ready for the patient. This is a satisfying, fun, interesting, and, at-times stressful profession that offers job security and mobility.

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Surgical Tech Program Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Program?

One year. The Summer semester is from mid-June to mid-August. Fall: the third week in August to the third week in December. Spring: second week of January to end of May.

How often do classes meet?

Summer: Monday through Thursday from 8 am to noon. Fall: Monday to Thursday, 8 am to 2:30 pm. In Spring, class is on Wednesdays from 8 am to 3 pm. The rest of the week is spent in the hospital. Hospital hours vary, but are usually from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

What is a typical day like?

Summer and Spring classes consist of lectures and demonstrations. Fall classes include lectures and demonstrations followed by lab sessions. Labs teach such skills as

- ❖ Scrubbing hands and arms, putting on sterile gown and gloves
- ❖ Passing instruments and equipment
- ❖ Handling supplies and medications... and much, much more!

What are the Prerequisites?

English equivalent to eligibility for Skyline English 836 . Math equivalent to Elem. College Algebra. College Human Anatomy with a lab.

How much studying will I have to do?

Students can expect to spend 2 to 3 hours studying every day.

How do you decide who is accepted?

Applicants who have completed all the prerequisites are considered first.

Applicants who are currently enrolled in a prerequisite class, **may** be considered **if** there are spaces remaining. Only complete applications will be considered. Within these two categories, selection is by a lottery.

How many students do you accept? Is there a Waiting List?

We take no more than we have hospital sites for training, usually 20, plus a Waiting List of 15 randomly-selected students.

How much does the program cost?

Fees are subject to change. Last year's class spent approximately \$1600 in fees, books and supplies.

When may I submit my application? When will I find out if I am accepted?

Applications are accepted from January 1 to April 1 of every year.

Acceptance letters will be mailed within a month after the application closing date

How much do surgical technologists make?

Starting pay varies from \$24 to \$26 per hour. Some Surgical Techs in the Bay Area can make up to \$55,000 per year.

NOTE: *Students applying to this program need to have reliable transportation, reliable childcare and adequate finances for one full year. Financial Aid is available.*

For More information, call 650-738-4470