



IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Valparaiso

Surgical Technology Program
Information package, admission procedure and application
Due May 1st

Surgical Technology

Surgical technologists are integral members of the surgical team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses and other surgical personnel delivering patient care before, during and after surgery.

This health profession was developed during World War II when there was a critical need for assistance in performing surgery and a shortage of qualified personnel to meet that need. Individuals were specifically educated to assist in surgical procedures and perioperative care of the patient.

Surgical technologists may earn a professional credential by passing a nationally administered certifying examination. Those who become certified are granted the designation of certified surgical technologist (CST).

Description of the Role

CSTs prepare the operating room by selecting and opening sterile supplies appropriate for particular surgical procedures. Some of these items may include drapes, sponges, suction tubing and surgical instruments. Also, preoperatively the CST may carefully look over any nonsterile items being used such as electrosurgical units and diagnostic equipment to ensure proper working order. Common duties include operating sterilizers, lights, suction machines and diagnostic equipment.

CSTs may assist with positioning the patient and prepping the patient for surgery as well as providing physical and emotional support. The CST's primary responsibility is setting up the sterile field and being constantly observant that all members of the surgical team adhere to the principles of aseptic technique.

The CST most often functions as the sterile member of the surgical team who passes instruments, sutures and sponges during surgery. After "scrubbing," which involves meticulous cleansing of the hands and forearms, the technologist dons gown and gloves and prepares the sterile setup for the appropriate procedure. The technologist also assists other sterile team members with gowning, gloving and the application of sterile drapes.

To ensure that the surgery will proceed smoothly, the CST anticipates the surgeon's needs passing instruments and providing sterile items in an efficient manner. The CST also shares with the circulator the responsibility of accounting for sponges, needles and instruments before, during and after surgery.

CSTs may hold retractors or instruments, sponge or suction the operative site, or cut suture material as directed by the surgeon. They connect drains and tubing and receive and prepare specimens for analysis. They are responsible for preparing and applying sterile dressings following the procedure and may assist in the application of nonsterile dressings, including casts.

The CST must always ensure the safety and well-being of the patient under-going surgery while responding to the needs of other team members.

Employment

Many CSTs are employed in hospital operating rooms, delivery rooms, ambulatory care areas and central supply departments. They are also utilized in clinics and surgicenters as well as ophthalmologists', physicians' and dentists' offices.

CSTs with additional specialized education or training may also act in the role of the surgical first assistant. The surgical first assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, and other technical functions that will help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. CSTs may earn a professional credential as a first assistant by passing a certifying examination that awards the credential of certified surgical technologist/certified first assistant (CST/CFA).

Because of a broad educational background, CSTs function well as central service managers, surgery schedulers and materials managers. Other professional opportunities include organ and tissue procurement/preservation, cardiac catheterization laboratories, medical sales, product development and research. A number are instructors and directors of surgical technology programs.

Professional Credentials

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting is the independent certifying agency for the profession. The NBSTSA awards certification to those who demonstrate their theoretical and practical knowledge by passing the national surgical technologist or first assistant certifying examination. Beginning with the March 2000 administration of the CST examination, only currently or previously certified surgical technologist or graduates of surgical technology programs accredited by CAAHEP will be eligible to the CST certifying examination.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Admission/Selection

The Surgical Technology Program has a two-step admission process as described below.

Step 1 – Admission to the College

1. Follow standard college admission requirements.

APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM OR ENROLLING IN CLASSES THAT ARE PART OF THE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STUDENT IS ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM

Step 2 – Admission to the Program

1. Take the PSB Test for Surgical Technology by the regional program deadline: April 1st for the upcoming fall semester program start date.
2. The student must successfully complete the following courses before beginning Fundamentals of Surgical Technology (SURG111):

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Anatomy and Physiology 1 (APHY101) | Pharmacology (SURG201) |
| Anatomy and Physiology 2 (APHY102) | English Composition (ENGL111) |
| Microbiology (BIOL201 or BIOL211) | Mathematics elective (MATH123 or higher) |
| Medical Terminology (HLHS101) | |
| Medical Law and Ethics (HLHS105) | |
3. All applicants to the Surgical Technology Program must be physically able to perform all of the Essential Functions Required for the Surgical Technology Program (attached).
4. At the time of acceptance to the Surgical Technology Program, students will receive notification by letter of a mandatory information session. Students must reply indicating intent to attend the mandatory information session by the date stated in the letter. Failure to attend the information session may result in forfeiture of a clinical slot for the current year.
5. Prospective students will be awarded points for each course completed by the regionally determined deadline based on the following outlined schedule.

Points awarded for the student's grade for courses required in the Surgical Technology program as listed below, including coursework completed at other institutions, is worth 75% of the rank score.

| Points Awarded | Completed Courses | Points Awarded | Completed Courses |
|--|---|---|--|
| A = 6 points B = 4 points C = 2 points D = 0 points | Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II Microbiology Medical Terminology Surgical Pharmacology Medical Law and Ethics | A = 3 points B = 2 points C = 1 point D = 0 points | Mathematics Elective (1XX) Intro to Psychology OR Intro to Sociology English Composition I Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR Intro to Interpersonal Communications |
| A, B or C = 2 points D = 0 points | IVY1XX | | |

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE (CONTINUED)

6. Points awarded for the PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam (PSB-HO) test are worth 25% of the rank score.

Points for the PSB-HO test will be awarded based on a sum of the five category percentile scores divided by 10. Students must have a percentile score of twenty-five (25) or higher in each category or a composite score of 200 to be considered for admission to the program. PSB-HO scores will be valid for one (1) year.

7. Admission to the Surgical Technology Program is by selecting those students with the highest rank **score**. However, the number of students admitted shall not exceed the number of clinical externships available.
8. In the event that multiple students have equal points, those students will receive ranking by the sum of the percentile scores from the PSB-HO exam.
9. Students who are not admitted to the program must reapply and are not given preferential consideration.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

| ESSENTIAL FUNCTION | DESCRIPTION | EXAMPLES |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Motor | Physical health, ability, and stamina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ head-to-toe physical examination ✓ weight lifting ability (Lift and carry 50 pounds) ✓ immunizations, as required by clinical facility ✓ hepatitis B immunization or declination form ✓ Laser eye exam, as required by clinical facility ✓ CPR certification ✓ Criminal background check and drug screen, as required by clinical facility • demonstrates visual acuity (with correction if needed) within normal range, including peripheral and color vision with ability to read fine print and function visually in semi-dark room • demonstrates auditory acuity (with correction if necessary) with ability to hear muffle voices (through masks) with extraneous background noise • possess stamina for long periods of standing • ability to wear sterile surgical attire, including personal protective equipment • ability to withstand exposure to irritating soaps and solutions • ability to withstand unusual smells such as cauterized, infected or necrotic tissue • demonstrates ability to focus intently on the task at hand without distraction |
| | Gross motor skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to bend, reach, pull, push, stand, stoop and walk during all aspects of the educational experience • ability to lift, position and move patients and heavy equipment • fastens masks and protective gowns • responds quickly to surgeon's request for instrumentation • scrubs all aspects of fingers, hands and arms • visually identifies differences between instruments • regulates equipment, including electrocautery, Lasers, endoscopy • performs patient assessment |
| | Fine motor skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possesses eye-hand coordination, both hands • manipulates needles, blades, sutures, and instrumentation with both hands • evaluates size of suture by feel |

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (CONTINUED)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Behavioral/ Social | Emotional stability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepts responsibility for total patient care • possesses stable temperament, is responsible, organized and patient • responds in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations |
| | Flexibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adapts to rigorous clinical attendance requirements, irregular working hours, and emergency call schedule |
| | Functions effectively under stress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilizes acceptable coping mechanisms in a high stress environment • accepts criticism without retaliation , particularly regarding sterile techniques, assignments, shift and unit/clinical rotation • plans and implements execution of duties independently • avoids demonstrating personal stress or frustration when interacting with clients, significant others, and health care team members • avoids use of drugs or alcohol in or before clinical or class setting |
| | Demonstrates caring behavior | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interacts with client and significant other in a positive manner without demonstrating personal stress or frustration • provides emotional support to surgical team members and the patient • interacts professionally with clients, significant others and health care team members and organizations |
| Intellectual/ Conceptual/ Judgmental | Problem solving ability; critical thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calculates dosages to prepare and mix medications correctly • anticipates the needs of the surgical team for instrumentation and supplies in routine and unexpected situations • demonstrates ability to respond quickly and prioritize the surgeon's needs in routine and emergency situations • analyzes situations involving a potential break in aseptic technique • recognizes and initiates interventions for client status changes • prepares in advance for clinical and integrates general information to specific tasks and procedures |
| | Recognizes hazards and assumes responsibility for safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness of exposure to toxic substances such as Laser, sterilants, x-ray, fumes, blood, etc. • takes appropriate safety precautions to prevent injury to self or others |
| Communication | Interaction and therapeutic communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks effectively with patients, families, and health care team members • identifies and interprets non-verbal communication • demonstrates knowledge of items and events that must be documented such as counts, implants, equipment use, etc. • accurately, objectively, concisely and legibly documents information on the patient's chart, specimens and other written documentation • reads surgeon's preference cards, medication labels, orders (typed and handwritten), policies, procedures, and instructions • ability to communicate in a rational and coherent manner both orally and in writing • maintains professionalism and minimizes social interaction |

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ Complete an application process for admission to Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. For information, contact the office of (**Admissions**.)
- ◆ Complete general education prerequisite coursework. It is recommended that you discuss your education plan with an advisor. It is NOT necessary to complete all prerequisites before taking the PSB or before submitting an application to the program. However, all prerequisite coursework MUST be completed before beginning the program, including IVYT1XX, HLHS101, HLHS105, SURG203, APHY101, APHY102, BIOL2XX, MATH123 or higher, ENGL111, PSYC101 or SOCI101 AND COMM101 or COMM102. Please review the full admission/selection process which is available at <https://www.ivytech.edu/surgical-technology/index.html>
- ◆ All applicants to the Surgical Technology Program must be physically able to perform all of the Essential Functions Required for the Surgical Technology Program.
- ◆ Take the PSB for Health Occupations test by **April 1st**. PSB-HO scores will be valid for one (1) year. Students must have a percentile score of twenty-five (25) or higher in each category or a composite score of 200 to be considered for admission to the program. If the PSB test is NOT taken at the Ivy Tech campus for which this application is submitted, it is the student's responsibility to see that PSB results are e-mail/faxed/mailed from the testing site to the program chair. Results are best e-mailed to meriks@ivytech.edu
- ◆ Submit the application packet by **May 1st** for August admissions, including:
 - ✓ Applicant information sheet (attached)
 - ✓ Copies of all college transcripts. This includes Ivy Tech and any other colleges you have attended. Unofficial copies are acceptable for this application. However, official copies must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration of transfer credit. It is the student's responsibility to have all official transcripts sent to the Registrar.

If the application date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the application will be due the Monday immediately following the application date listed.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the entire packet is submitted in its entirety by the deadline. Pieces of information will **NOT** be accepted. This application will be considered only after the application packet is found to be complete.

Do not contact the surgical technology office to inquire on the status of your application after the deadline. You will be notified by mail of your status.

Applications may be dropped off or mailed to:
Program D145

Valparaiso Surgical Technology

Ivy Tech Community College
3100 Ivy Tech Dr.
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-476-4702
meriks@ivytech.edu

Applications may be e-mailed to:

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Middle Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____
SS Number: _____ C Number: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

List all colleges for which transcripts are submitted

PSB date: _____ Location of testing: _____

Admission Desired (August, 2###): _____

Deadline for submission: May 1st

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____

Applicant response: Accepts: _____ Declines: _____ Year: _____