



Surgical Technology Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are some of the job titles one can expect to qualify for once you complete the program?

- Operating Room Technologist
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) following certification testing
- Labor and Delivery
- Free-standing Surgical Center
- GI (Gastro-Intestinal) Lab
- Instrument Processing
- Private Physician's Office
- Certified First Assistant (CFA) with additional schooling
- Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- Sales (surgical equipment and supplies)

Q: What do students enjoy the most about this program?

The students enjoy the on-campus simulated operating room. This lab allows them to actively participate in a hospital environment. As well as, their time spent at a clinical rotation in one of the hospitals.

Q: What do students enjoy the least about this program?

Some students will tell you that the program is demanding and somewhat stressful because of the amount of time and work involved. For example, students are required to be at the hospital 3 days a week from 6:15am until 2:45pm and in class 2 days per week.

Q: What are some typical misconceptions about this program?

The biggest misconception is the amount of time the student must sacrifice in order to be successful. It is almost impossible to work full-time or part-time and pass this course.

Q: What are some essential skills a student needs to have in order to be successful?

- A basic understanding of sterile technique.
- The ability to stay focused while anticipating the needs of the operating room team.
- Good multi-tasking skills.
- The ability to prioritize activities, as there are many to consider.
- Time management skills while anticipating problems.
- Assess their abilities.
- Demonstrate flexibility.
- Analyze results and accept feedback from others, as part of the learning experience.

Q: What are typical skills and abilities that a student will gain once the program is completed?

The Surgical Technology Program prepares students to become qualified Surgical Technologists. The program provides learning opportunities that introduce, develop, and reinforce academic and occupational knowledge; skills and attitudes required for job acquisition, retention, and advancement.

Typical Work Activities/Occupational Functions

Most surgical teams include surgeons, anesthesia personnel, nurses, and surgical technologists. Surgical technologists may also assist as, circulating technologists, working outside the sterile field during surgery; scrub technologists, maintaining the sterile field and providing instruments, supplies and equipment to surgeons; first or second assistants to surgeons working within the sterile field providing assistance with wound exposure, suctioning fluids and suturing; or assistants in central processing departments, decontaminating, sterilizing and wrapping surgical instruments.

Q: What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

- Certification (CST)
- Certified First Assist (CFA)
- Physician’s Assistant (PA)
- Registered Nurse (RN)

Q: Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

The Surgical Technology Program is a diploma level Health Sciences Program. A student wishing to go further in their field of study should investigate a 4 year college of their choice to inquire what classes will transfer.

Q: What are some common limitations in this program facing students?

- Standing on hard surface approximately 8 hours a day.
- Lifting trays of instruments or equipment up to 30 pounds.
- Lifting and/or moving heavy patients who may or may not be conscious.
- Moving stretchers or heavy surgical beds.
- Going without nourishment for 4-6 hours.
- Going without bathroom breaks for 4-6 hours.
- Vision must be 20/20 with or without corrective glasses or contacts.
- Hearing must be within normal range with corrective devices.
- Hand-eye coordination, excellent motor and critical thinking skills.
- The requirement to wear a mask covering your nose and mouth.
- The requirement to wear safety glasses with side shields.
- The requirement to wear surgical gloves. If you have a latex allergy, documentation will be required from a physician.

- Persons with a history of epilepsy must be seizure free for 6 months prior to entering the program. If you have an existing condition, documentation will be required from a physician.
- Exposure to blood and/or body fluids.
- It is strongly recommended that you postpone pregnancy during this program. Exposure to hazardous materials may affect fetal development. If you become pregnant during the course of the program, documentation will be required from your physician in order to continue.

Q: Are there any exams/certifications after the program has been completed? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

After graduation students are eligible to sit for the Certification Examination. The certification is recognized nationally. Our program prepares the students for the examination and is given at Chattahoochee Technical College two (2) weeks prior to graduation.

Possible Employment Settings

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating Room Technologist • Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) following certification testing • Labor and Delivery • Free-standing Surgical Center • GI (Gastro-Intestinal) Lab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument Processing • Private Physician’s Office • Certified First Assistant (CFA) with additional schooling • Cardiac Catheterization Lab • Sales (surgical equipment and supplies) |
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Q: What is the possible salary range?

A new graduate with no experience working the “day shift” can expect to make \$31,200 - \$38,480 per year.

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