

What can you do with a major in Surgical Technology?

Campus(s) program is offered: North Metro

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?

1. Operating Room Technologist
2. Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) following certification testing
3. Instrument Processing
4. Certified First Assistant (CFA) with additional schooling
5. Sales (surgical equipment and supplies)

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program? What is the least?

The students enjoy the on-campus simulated operating room, which allows them to actively participate in a hospital working environment. They also enjoy their clinical rotation at one of the local hospitals.

Students say that the program is demanding and somewhat stressful because of the amount of time and work involved. For instance, they are required to be at the hospital from 6:30 am. - 3:00 pm. three (3) days per week. Mondays and Fridays are in the classroom.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

Probably the biggest misconception about this program is the amount of time the student must sacrifice in order to be successful. It is almost impossible to work full time and pass this course. Some students even have a hard time working part-time.

What are some essential skills a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?

1. Basic understanding of sterile technique.
2. Being able to stay focused and anticipate the needs of the O.R Team.
3. Good multi-tasking skills.
4. Prioritizes activities when there are many to consider.
5. Use time wisely and anticipate problems.
6. Assess own abilities.
7. Demonstrate flexibility.
8. Analyze the result and accepts feedback from others as part of the learning experience.

What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?

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 also may 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.

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)

Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

The Surgical Technology Program is a Diploma level Allied Health Program. If the student substituted any degree level core classes those would transfer.

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

1. Standing on hard surface approximately 8 hrs. a day.
2. Lifting trays of instruments or equipment up to 30#.
3. Lifting and/or moving heavy patients who may be unconscious.
4. Moving stretchers or heavy surgical beds.
5. Going without nourishment for 4-6 hrs.
6. Going without bathroom breaks for 4-6 hrs.
7. Vision: eyesight must be 20/20 with glasses or contacts.
8. Wearing a mask covering your nose and mouth.
9. Wearing safety glasses with side shields.
10. Wearing surgical gloves; if you have a latex allergy, you will need a signed letter from your doctor.
11. Persons with a history of epilepsy must be seizure free for 6 months prior to entering program and provide documentation that they are under the care of a physician for this condition.
12. It is strongly recommended that pregnancy be postponed during this program. Exposure to hazardous materials may affect fetal development. If you become pregnant during the course of the program, a signed letter from your gynecologist is required in order to continue.
13. Exposure to blood and/or body fluids.

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

After graduation students are eligible to sit for the Certification Examination. At the present time we do not offer the exams on campus. We do prepare the students for the examination and provide the necessary information needed to apply for the exam.

Possible employment settings:

Free-standing Surgical Center or hospital; GI (Gastro-Intestinal) Lab; Private Physician's Office
Sales (surgical equipment and supplies)

Names of employers:

Piedmont Mountain Side Medical Center
Marietta Surgery Center
Northside Hospital Cherokee

WellStar Health System
Urology Associates Surgery Center
Marietta Podiatry Group

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