

Surgical Technology Program

Physical Demands & Technical Standards

Technical standards are an accreditation requirement meant to assist both students and program faculty in determining appropriate qualifications for the program. Technical standards must meet state and federal requirements that preserve the rights of individuals with disabilities. The standards below reflect those referenced by the U.S. Department of Labor and requirements of local job postings.

The following are physical demands that must be met both during the on-campus lab experience and the in-hospital clinical externship.

- Standing:** 7-8 hours per day; Stand and maintain balance; Stand on raised surgical step stools.
- Walking:** 1-2 hours per day; Walk 100 meters in 1 minute; Climbing stairs.
- Bending:** 1-2 hours per day; Pickup objects from the floor; Squat then rise to a standing position.
- Reaching:** 1-2 hours; Reach above shoulder level; Reach below waist.
- Lifting:** 3-4 hours per day; Transfer and position surgical patient with a team; Repetitive lifting of 30+ pound instrument trays; Pushing and pulling large equipment.
- Coordination:** Coordination of 2 or more limbs to perform a task.
- Dexterity:** Pick up small objects with hands; Twisting while disconnecting and assembling equipment; Perform repetitive motions with hands.
- Steadiness:** Maintain a steady hand when handling sharp items and instruments (suture & scalpels).
- Tactile:** Feel vibrations to palpate pulse; Detect temperature to identify hot/cold solutions.
- Hearing:** Hear and repeat normal speech without seeing the speakers' lips; Hear faint body sounds from the patient; Hear equipment auditory alarms.
- Visual:** See small objects 20 inches away; See larger objects 20 feet away; Distinguish colors.
- Verbal:** Ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.