

Technical Standards - Surgical Technology

The following activities are examples of the kind of activities, which a student in the Surgical Technology program will be required to perform or demonstrate in order to successfully complete the program.

1. **Critical Thinking:** A Surgical Technology student should possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example: Students must be able to bring together and relate the similarities of surgical procedures and situations in order to function on unfamiliar procedures.
2. **Interpersonal Skills:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with surgeons, OR personnel, hospital departmental staff, and patients. These individuals are all experiencing different levels of anxiety within the OR environment in relationship to the position they are holding within the surgical suite. This also includes the ability of the student to handle constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is an ongoing process. For example: Constructive criticism is expressed in the lab as a teaching tool, in the classroom and in the clinical sites as well. Students shall establish a working rapport with surgeons, anesthesia personnel, other surgical technologists, nurses, and a variety of other departmental specialists as well as patients.
3. **Communication Skills:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal form. For example: Discuss and ask questions regarding the surgical procedures both preoperatively and intraoperatively.
4. **Mobility:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move and maneuver in a small operating room. Students will experience periods of standing in one spot for an extensive amount of time as well as during shorter surgical procedures. Some surgical procedures require sitting for long periods of times as well. A Surgical Technology student will experience lifting surgical instrument trays as well as participating in patient lifting and positioning. For example: Holding a patient's extremity for 5 to 15 minutes or standing for a surgical procedure that may last several hours.

5. **Motor Skills:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care in the operating room. For example: Manipulating very fine and delicate instruments and suture as well as the larger more complex orthopedic and neuro equipment.
6. **Hearing:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs by the surgeon and other sterile operating room team members. For example: Surgeons and/or staff wear surgical masks during surgical procedures. This limits the ability to hear requests and directions at the surgical field.

Technical Standards (continued)

7. **Visual:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess visual ability and acuity for observation and assessment necessary during a surgical procedure. For example: Handling fine surgical needles suture safely and efficiently in response to the needs of the surgeon and surgical procedure, being able to visualize and follow the surgical procedure, and working with small supplies and instruments that require calibration.
8. **Tactile:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess tactile ability to sufficiently handle all the microscopic supplies, instruments, and equipment. For example: Implantable items for patients may be very delicate, in combination with sterile surgical gloves, some supplies and instruments require very delicate manipulation.
9. **Cognitive Abilities:** A Surgical Technology student shall possess the ability to be oriented to time, place, and person, organize responsibilities, and make quick appropriate decisions. For example: Students will need to quickly assess needs for surgical procedures, anticipate surgeon's needs, and act appropriately at all times. Organizational skills when setting up the instrument table and mayo table allows the student to function in a more efficient manner.
10. **Occupational Exposures:** A Surgical Technology student is at high risk for exposure to blood and body fluids resulting in exposure to communicable disease, toxic substances, medical preparations, and chemical sterilization practices at all times. Standard precautions are to be practiced at all times. For example: A student may be assigned to a surgical procedure with a patient that has a known or

unknown communicable disease. Ethylene oxide is a means of a lethal chemical sterilization process.

11. Stress: Stress in the operating room is very common. Tension runs high many days and it can affect a student's ability to cope with the environment and others in the environment. Stress arises from the difficult development of interpersonal skills within the operating room. Stress is also environmental related (this is a totally different environment than any you have been in; ex: room temperatures, noises, odors, patient conditions, sites, and standing for a long period of time either in an ergonomically or nonergonomical position). Students often feel stress in the SUR 111 Lab as well as in the clinicals when they are being watched very closely by the operating room staff or the surgical technology faculty.

EXAMPLES ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE