



Surgical Technologist

Course Overview: Focuses on careers in planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

Career Goal (O*NET Code): (29-2031) - As a Surgical Technologist you perform a variety of tasks before, during, and after surgery. You work closely with the surgeon or surgeons, helping them on with their gloves and gowns, placing instruments, supplies and equipment on sterile tables and stands, passing instruments and supplies, assisting in the retraction of tissues, cutting sutures and operating special equipment. You prepare the patient for surgery and maintain surgical instruments and specimens. After surgery, you may help transfer patients to the recovery room and clean and restock the O.R.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Middle School	8th	HS Courses:	(Local districts may list high school credit courses here)	<p>Curricular Experiences: *** Health Occupations Students of America</p> <p>Career Learning Experiences: Career Preparation Internship Job Shadowing Clinical Rotations Certifications Clinical Volunteer Work (local hospitals & medical facilities)</p>	<p>Extracurricular Experiences:*** Language Immersion Programs National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine School Newspaper Student Council UIL Academic Competitions Yearbook</p> <p>Service Learning Experiences: Boy/Girl Scouts Campus Service Organizations Community Service Volunteer Medical Mission Trips Peer Mentoring / Peer Tutoring Special Olympics</p>		
High School	9th	Courses*:	English I Algebra I or Geometry Biology			World Geography Foreign Language I Physical Education or Athletics	<p>COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES -- High School</p> <p>Students should take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, Advanced Technical Credit (ATC), or locally articulated courses (Tech Prep), if possible. List those courses that count for college credit on your campus.</p>
		Career-Related Electives:	Principles of Health Science				
	10th	Courses:	English II Geometry or Algebra II Chemistry			World History Foreign Language II Elective	
		Career-Related Electives:	Medical Terminology and Pathophysiology				
	11th	Core Courses:	English III Algebra II or Pre-Calculus Physics			United States History Foreign Language III ** Professional Communications or Speech	
		Career-Related Electives:	Health Science				
12th	Core Courses:	English IV Pre-Calculus or Calculus 4th Science	Government/Economics Elective Elective				
	Career-Related Electives:	Practicum in Health Science					
Postsecondary	<p>How to Become a Surgical Technologist Surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary certificate or associate's degree. Certification also can help a surgical technologist find a position. A small number of states regulate surgical technologists.</p>			<p>Carrer Options (Sample of reported job titles)</p>	<p>Professional Associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Surgical Technologists • Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs • National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting • National Center for Competency Testing 		
		Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Technologist (CST) • Surgical Technician • Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) • Operating Room Surgical Technician (OR St) 		
		Surgical Technology (AAS)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Scrub Technologist • Surgical Scrub Technician • Endoscopic Technologist • Operating Room Technician (OR Tech) 		
		The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American				

* Students must meet local & state high school graduation requirements. ** Required course for the Distinguished Graduation Plan (in addition to other measures). *** Based on campus availability. Students may select other elective courses for personal enrichment purposes.

This plan of study serves as a guide, along with other career planning materials, for pursuing a career path and is based on the most recent information as of 2009. All plans meet high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.



Surgical Technologist

TEA Industry Cluster	Health Science
SOC Code	29-2055
Identified by	Tech Prep Occupations
Projected Growth (2018)	36%
BISD Magnet School Available	Yes

Source: Demand Occupations by Cluster, updated June 27, 2012

Description

As a Surgical Technologist you perform a variety of tasks before, during, and after surgery. You work closely with the surgeon or surgeons, helping them on with their gloves and gowns, placing instruments, supplies and equipment on sterile tables and stands, passing instruments and supplies, assisting in the retraction of tissues, cutting sutures and operating special equipment. You prepare the patient for surgery and maintain surgical instruments and specimens. After surgery, you may help transfer patients to the recovery room and clean and restock the O.R.

What Surgical Technologists Do

Surgical technologists may transport patients to surgery. Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors and nurses during surgeries.

Duties

- Surgical technologists typically do the following:
- Prepare operating rooms for surgery
- Sterilize equipment and make sure that there are adequate supplies for surgery
- Prepare patients for surgery, such as washing and disinfecting incision sites
- Help surgeons and nurses during surgery by passing them instruments and other sterile supplies

Surgical technologists work as members of a healthcare team alongside physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, and other healthcare workers. For more information, see the profiles on physicians and surgeons or registered nurses.

Before an operation, surgical technologists prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment. They also prepare patients for surgery by washing and disinfecting incision sites, positioning patients on the operating table, and covering patients with sterile drapes. Surgical technologists prepare sterile solutions used in surgery and check that all surgical equipment is working properly. They help the surgical team put on sterile gowns and gloves.

During an operation, surgical technologists pass instruments and supplies to surgeons and first assistants. Technologists also may prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis. In addition, they apply dressings. After an operation, surgical technologists may help transfer patients to recovery rooms and may clean and restock operating rooms.

Training Opportunities Linked to Those Jobs (Degree Types and Colleges/Universities)

How to Become a Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary certificate or associate's degree. Certification also can help a surgical technologist find a position. A small number of states regulate surgical technologists.

Education

People interested in surgical technology should take high school courses in health, biology, chemistry, and mathematics.

Surgical technologists typically need some type of postsecondary education. Accredited programs in surgical technology are in many community colleges and vocational schools. Programs range in length from several months to two years, and they grant a certificate or associate's degree. Admission typically requires a high school diploma or equivalent.

Surgical technology education includes courses in anatomy, biology, medical terminology, and other topics. Students also work in supervised clinical settings to gain hands-on skills as technologists. In addition, technologists are trained in the care and safety of patients, sterilization techniques, and preventing and controlling infections.

In 2010, accredited training programs were recognized by the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs \(CAAHEP\)](#).

Important Qualities

Detail oriented. Surgical technologists must pay close attention to their work at all times. For example, they need to provide the correct sterile equipment for surgeons and nurses during an operation.

Dexterity. Surgical technologists should be comfortable working with their hands. They must be able to provide the needed equipment quickly.

Stamina. Surgical technologists should be comfortable standing for an extended period.

Stress-management skills. Working in an operating room can be stressful. Surgical technologists should be able to work well under pressure while providing a high level of care.

Certification

Certification can help a surgical technologist find a position. Surgical technologists earn certification through one of two credentialing organizations. Certification through the [National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting](#) allows the use of the title "Certified Surgical Technologist." Certification through the [National Center for Competency Testing](#) allows the use of the title "Tech in Surgery-Certified." Certification typically requires completing an accredited formal education program, passing an exam, and undergoing continuing education.

The [National Healthcare Association](#) (NHA) also offers the Certified Operating Room and Surgical Technician (CORST) certification. Candidates can complete an accredited training program, or have one year of experience working in the field. After passing the exam, individuals may use the designation Certified Operating Room Surgical Technician (CORST). This certification must be renewed every two years through either continuing education or reexamination. Additional information can be found on the [CORST information page](#).

A small number of states and the District of Columbia have regulations governing the work of surgical technologists. In these jurisdictions, surgical technologists must have graduated from an accredited education program and received certification.

Advancement

With experience and additional education, surgical technologists can advance to become surgical assistants. Surgical technologists also occasionally advance to other healthcare occupations, such as physician assistants or registered nurses. For more information, see the profiles on [physician assistants](#) and [registered nurses](#).

Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College	The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American
		Surgical Technology (AAS)		

Local Employers

Employer	City		Employer	City
Abc Pediatrics	Brownsville		Associated Clinic-Msclskltl	Harlingen
Anesthesia Consultants	Brownsville		Back To Action Inc	Harlingen
Arthritis & Osteoporosis Ctr	Brownsville		Behavior & Wellness Ctr	Harlingen
Asthma Center	Brownsville		Cameron County Works	Harlingen
Bienestar Counseling Ctr	Brownsville		Cardiovascular Associates	Harlingen

Career Options (Specific Job Types)

Sample of reported job titles:

- Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Surgical Technician
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Operating Room Surgical Technician (OR St)
- Surgical Scrub Technologist
- Surgical Scrub Technician
- Endoscopic Technologist
- Operating Room Technician (OR Tech)

Salary Ranges

Wages for Surgical Technologists

Location	Pay Period	2011				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$13.87	\$16.32	\$19.69	\$23.42	\$28.44
	Yearly	\$28,800	\$33,900	\$41,000	\$48,700	\$59,200
Texas	Hourly	\$13.41	\$16.08	\$19.32	\$23.19	\$27.88
	Yearly	\$27,900	\$33,400	\$40,200	\$48,200	\$58,000
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	Hourly	\$11.08	\$16.35	\$20.27	\$24.54	\$28.34
	Yearly	\$23,000	\$34,000	\$42,200	\$51,000	\$58,900

Professional Associations Linked to the Careers

For more information about surgical technologists, including a list of accredited programs, visit

[Association of Surgical Technologists](#)

[Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](#)

For information about becoming a Certified Surgical Technologist, visit

[National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting](#)

For information about becoming a Tech in Surgery-Certified, visit

[National Center for Competency Testing](#)

Sources

The information provided in this document was collected from the following sources:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)
- O*NET OnLine (<http://www.onetonline.org/>)
- Texas CARES (<http://www.texascaresonline.com/>)
- CareerOneStop (<http://www.careeronestop.org/>)