



Surgical Technology Program


Nashville State
Community College

120 White Bridge Road
Nashville, TN 37209
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What does a Surgical Technologist do?

Before an operation, Surgical Technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and nonsterile equipment, as well as checking and adjusting it to ensure it is working properly.

During surgery, Surgical Technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgical assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Surgical Technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and help apply dressings. Some operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines and help operate diagnostic equipment.

After an operation, Surgical Technologists may help transfer patients to the recovery room and clean and restock the operating room.

Certified Surgical Technologists with additional specialized education or training also may act in the role of the surgical first assistant or circulator.

Surgical Technologists work in clean, well-lighted, cool environments. They must stand for long periods and remain alert during operations. At times, they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.

Career possibilities:

- * Most Surgical Technologists work in hospital-based operating rooms.
- * Surgical Technologists may also work in dental and veterinary surgical settings.
- * Some Surgical Technologists work for surgeons in a private capacity.
- * Medical device manufacturers also employ Surgical Technologists for technical support and sales.

The Surgical Technology Program is a 33 credit hour Technical Certificate. Students planning to pursue more advanced education in healthcare may elect to count most of these credits toward an Associate of Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) degree in General Technology with an emphasis in Health Sciences.

Seeing your advisor early in your academic path will help you take the courses that you need to complete your course of study in a timely manner.

Admission Procedure

The application process for the Surgical Technology Program at NSCC is as follows and must be completed prior to the deadlines below. ***THERE IS NO WAITING LIST.***

1. Submit a complete NSCC application to the Admissions Department and turn in everything required to be admitted as a student at NSCC. Please be sure you provide everything Admissions needs from you or you will not be eligible for an interview for the Surgical Technology Program.
2. If you take a placement test and place into any of the following classes: ENGL 0810, READ 0810, MATH 0810 or any required ESOL classes, these courses must be completed before beginning the program.
3. Contact the NSCC Records office (353-3218) to make sure required transcripts, placement scores, immunizations, etc. have been processed and are on file.
4. Submit a complete Surgical Technology Program Application to the Department Secretary in office D-27 or fax to 353-3608. Surgical Technology applications may be found on the Program Website at www.nsc.edu (click on 'Academics'). Unofficial transcripts **MUST** be attached to the Program Application.

Member of



NSCC 22-17. NSCC is a TBR institution, AA/EEO employer, and does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by NSCC. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, Human.Resources@nsc.edu, 120 White Bridge Rd, 615-353-3305. The Nashville State policy on nondiscrimination can be found at www.nsc.edu/legal/non-discrimination-policy.
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Surgical Technology Technical Certificate

Acceptance into the Program will be based on:

- * Previous grade point average
- * Interview score
- * Successful completion of courses counting toward Surgical Technology Program (see courses marked with * in column to right) with a C or higher
- * Previous work in the medical field
- * College Placement Testing Scores
- * Tennessee residency is not a requirement for the program.

BIOL 1000	Medical Terminology*	3 Cr
SURG 1304	Basic Anatomy and Physiology*	3 Cr
SURG 2310	Surgical Microbiology and Asepsis*	3 Cr
SURG 1305	Surgical Pharmacology*	3 Cr
SURG 1410	Surgical Technology and Patient Care I	4 Cr
SURG 2420	Surgical Patient Care II	4 Cr
SURG 1102	Orientation to Surgical Technology	1 Cr
SURG 2321	Surgical Procedures I	3 Cr
SURG 2330	Surgical Procedures II	3 Cr
SURG 2103	Clinical Practicum I	1 Cr
SURG 2201	Clinical Practicum II	2 Cr
SURG 2302	Clinical Practicum III	3 Cr

***These courses count toward the Surgical Technology certificate and may be taken prior to acceptance into the Program.
TAKING THESE COURSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM.**

Course Descriptions:

BIOL 1000 Medical Terminology

Medical terms, abbreviations combining forms and definitions with associated anatomy. Topics include roots, prefixes, and suffixes commonly used in the medical field and terminology related to all eleven body systems and disorders of those systems.

SURG 1304 Basic Anatomy and Physiology

An introduction to human anatomy and physiology. Topics include the cell, and organ systems including integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive as well as disorders of these systems.

SURG 2310 Surgical Microbiology and Asepsis

A presentation of microbial techniques and concepts. Emphasis is placed on applying these concepts in the operating room environment. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation.

SURG 1305 Surgical Pharmacology

An introduction to basic pharmacology with emphasis on terminology, drugs and techniques used in the operating room, medication measurement and delivery, types and actions of medications, routes of administration, drug calculations and scenarios, and medications used in surgery. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Pre-requisite(s): Level 2 placement in Math.

SURG 1410 Surgical Technology and Patient Care I

An introduction to principles, techniques, and issues in the operating room environment. Topics include surgical team practice, patient care concepts and practice with an emphasis on operating room furniture, instrumentation, equipment and supplies, establishment and maintenance of the sterile field, and skills necessary for preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative case management. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program. Co-requisite(s): SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 2310, SURG 2420, and BIOL 1000.

SURG 2420 Surgical Patient Care II

A continuation of SURG 1410. Students continue the study of surgical team practice, patient-care concepts and practices. Topics include continued studies in surgical procedures, incisions, wound healing, operating, pathology, and common applications. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program. Co-requisite(s): SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 2310, SURG 1410, and BIOL 1000.

SURG 1102 Orientation to Surgical Technology

An introduction to the operating room environment. Topics include professional management and healthcare facility information. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program and SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 1410, SURG 2310, SURG 2420, and BIOL 1000. Co-requisite(s): SURG 2103, SURG 2201, SURG 2302, SURG 2330

SURG 2321 Surgical Procedures I

An overview of the relevant anatomy, pathophysiology (including tumors, inflammation, infection, and fluid and hemodynamic disorders), surgically treatable diseases and disorders, preparations, diagnostic interventions, instrumentation, purpose, intervention, postoperative patient care considerations and expected outcome for surgical procedures covered in the course. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program and SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 1410, SURG 2310, SURG 2420, and BIOL 1000. Co-requisite(s): SURG 1102, SURG 2103, SURG 2201, SURG 2302, SURG 2330.

SURG 2330 Surgical Procedures II

A continuation of Surgical Procedures I. Students complete their study of the relevant anatomy, pathophysiology (including tumors, inflammation, infection, and fluid and hemodynamic disorders), surgically treatable diseases and disorders, preparations, diagnostic interventions, instrumentation, purpose, intervention, postoperative patient care considerations and expected outcome for surgical procedures covered in the course. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program, SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 1410, SURG 2310, SURG 2420, and BIOL 1000. Co-requisite(s): SURG 1102, SURG 2103, SURG 2201, SURG 2302, SURG 2321.

SURG 2103 Clinical Practicum I; SURG 2201 Clinical Practicum II; SURG 2302 Clinical Practicum III

Clinical experience allows a student to affiliate with healthcare facilities under the joint supervision of the school and professional staff of affiliated clinical sites to provide practical clinical work experience in an operating room setting. A grade of "C" or above in all Surgical Technology curriculum courses must be earned prior to graduation. Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program, SURG 1304, SURG 1305, SURG 1410, SURG 2310, SURG 2420, BIOL 1000. Co-requisite(s): SURG 1102, SURG 2103, SURG 2302, SURG 2321, SURG 2330.