

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

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## Surgical Technology Program Information

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings. The surgical technologist works under medical supervision of a surgeon to ensure that the operating room environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

**Graduates of this program are required to take the National Certification Surgical Technology exam.**

The TVCC SGT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org) (<http://www.caahep.org>)) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

*Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs*

9355 - 113th St. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org) (<http://www.caahep.org>)

There is a selection process for this program. It is the student's responsibility to read the current health occupations brochure (<http://www.tvcc.edu/health-science-center/>). Students may apply if they expect to complete the prerequisite courses or become TSI complete by the end of the fall semester.

The deadline for completing all pre-admission testing requirements and for submitting the online application is **December 1**. Applicants will have until January 31 to submit fall semester transcripts and TSI (<https://coursecatalog.tvcc.edu/admission-registration/testing/tsi-testing-requirements/>) completion documentation.

**Note: Criminal history may disqualify individuals from obtaining or maintaining surgical technologists certifications.**

Surgical technology graduates become Certified Surgical Technologists (CST) by passing the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) certifying exam. At present, NBSTSA does not disqualify applicants with a criminal history from taking the certifying exam and becoming a CST; however, criminal history may disqualify individuals from obtaining employment as a surgical technologist.

- Surgical Technology AAS Degree (<https://coursecatalog.tvcc.edu/pathways/health-sciences/surgical-technology/surgical-technology-aas/>)

**SRGT-1260. Clinical I. (2 Credits)**

(2-0-0-8) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: Admission to the surgical technology program and grade of C or better in BIOL 2401) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. Lab fee \$87 includes professional liability insurance and drug screen.

**SRGT-1405. Introduction to Surgical Technology. (4 Credits)**

(4-2-2-0) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: Admission to the surgical technology program and grade of C or better in BIOL 2401) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. Orientation to surgical technology theory, surgical pharmacology and anesthesia, technological sciences and patient care concepts. Lab fee includes exam prep packages.

**SRGT-1409. Fundamentals of Perioperative Concepts And Techniques. (4 Credits)**

(4-2-6-0) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: Admission to the surgical technology program and grade of C or better in BIOL 2401) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. In-depth coverage of perioperative concepts such as aseptic principles and practices, infectious processes, wound healing, and creation and maintenance of the sterile field. Lab fee.

**SRGT-1441. Surgical Procedures I. (4 Credits)**

(4-4-0-0) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: SRGT 1405, 1409 and 1260) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. Introduction to surgical pathology and its relationship to surgical procedures. Emphasis on surgical procedures related to the general, OB/GYN, genitourinary, otorhinolaryngology and orthopedic surgical specialties incorporating instruments, equipment and supplies required for safe patient care. Lab Fee \$50 includes CST practice exam.

**SRGT-1442. Surgical Procedures II. (4 Credits)**

(4-4-0-0) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: SRGT 1405, 1409 and 1260) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. Introduction to surgical pathology and its relationship to surgical procedures. Emphasis on surgical procedures related to cardiothoracic, peripheral vascular, plastic/reconstructive, ophthalmology, oral/maxillofacial and neurological surgical specialties incorporating instruments, equipment and supplies required for safe patient care. Lab fee \$247 includes AST certification exam fee, exam prep materials, and AST membership.

**SRGT-2461. Clinical II. (4 Credits)**

(4-0-0-16) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: SRGT 1405, 1409 and 1260) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. Lab fee.

**SRGT-2462. Clinical III. (4 Credits)**

(4-0-0-16) This course is taken for academic credit. (Prerequisite: SRGT 1405, 1409 and 1260) Students will earn an A, B, C, D, F, or W. A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional. Lab fee.

A grade of 75 or better must be attained in each surgical technology course.

### **What surgical assistants and Surgical Technologists Do (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-2>)**

Surgical assistants and technologists assist in surgical operations.

#### **SUMMARY (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm>)**

- 2021 Median Pay: \$48,510 per year; \$23.32 per hour
- Typical Entry-Level Education: Postsecondary nondegree award
- Work Experience in a Related Occupation: None
- On-the-job Training: None
- Number of Jobs, 2021: 128,700
- Job Outlook, 2021-31: 6% (As fast as average)
- Employment Change, 2021-31: 7,700

### **Work Environment (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-3>)**

Most surgical assistants and surgical technologists work in hospitals. They spend much of their time on their feet.

### **How to Become a Surgical Technologist (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-4>)**

Surgical assistants and surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary nondegree award or an associate's degree. Certification can be beneficial in finding a job. A small number of states regulate surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

### **Pay (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-5>)**

The median annual wage for surgical assistants was \$48,320 in May 2021.

The median annual wage for surgical technologists was \$48,530 in May 2021.

### **Job Outlook (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-6>)**

Employment of surgical assistants and surgical technologists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.

### **State & Area Data (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-7>)**

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

### **Similar Occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-8>)**

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of surgical assistants and surgical technologists with similar occupations.

### **More Information, Including Links to O\*NET (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm#tab-9>)**

Learn more about surgical assistants and surgical technologists by visiting additional resources, including O\*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

### **SUGGESTED CITATION:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Surgical Technologists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm> (visited May 28, 2023).

TVCC has partnered with **Career Coach** (<https://tvcc.emsicc.com/?radius=&region=10%20Mile%20Radius%20from%20Athens%2C%20TX>) for students to discover majors and in-demand careers and education based on your interests!

- Career Assessment Profiler
- Interactive Career Catalog
- Browse TVCC's Pathways

Some careers in this field will require a bachelor's degree.

- TVCC's AA degrees are fully transferable to public universities in Texas. See an academic advisor or TVCC's university transfer webpage (<https://www.tvcc.edu/Advisement/Category.aspx?z=72>) for more information on this transfer opportunity.
- Many of TVCC's AAS degrees lead to an online Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree with participating universities. See an academic advisor or the BAAS transfer website (<https://www.ntxccc.org/pathways/>) for more information on this transfer opportunity.