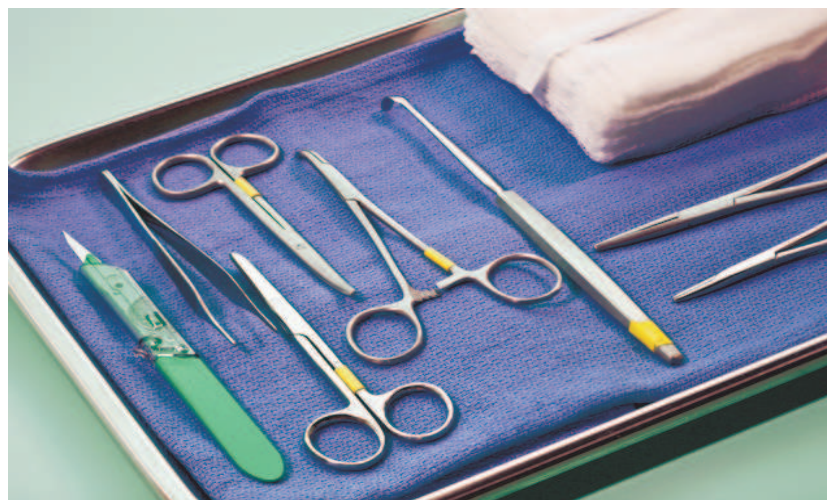




Surgical Technology

Texas State Technical College Harlingen





STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Student will learn program description and expectations.
- Student will understand pre-Tech program requirements/expectations.
- Student will learn about job outlook, projected salary, and career advancement.



WHAT IS GST?

GST stands for The General Studies in Technology program.

The GST program consists of advisement components for:

- Transfer Students (Associates to Bachelors)
- Pre-Allied Health students
- First-time in-college GED recipients entering a technical field of study

GST in association with the Office of Student Success provides advisement, tutoring, career exploration, workshops, computer resources, financial aid assistance, and scheduling.

As a prospective Surgical Technology student, you will meet with your designated GST Advisor for registration and for fulfilling pre-program requirements until you have been officially accepted into a cohort.



General Studies in Technology



Do you want to be a Surgical Technologist?



Click on picture to start video.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides classroom education and supervised clinical experience. Students take courses in anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, professional ethics, medical terminology, speech, computers and psychology. Other studies cover the care and safety of patients during surgery, aseptic techniques and surgical procedures. Students also learn to sterilize instruments; prevent and control infection; and handle special drugs, solutions, supplies and equipment.

The Surgical Technology Program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). CAAHEP accredits Surgical Technology Programs upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC-ST). The program received accreditation on October 15, 1999.



NOTE: This program is offered only during the day.



PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

The responsibilities, expectations and personal characteristics desired of a Surgical Technologist include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Ability to work under stress
- Alertness of mind to think and plan logically to organize work
- Ability to anticipate in patients' and surgeons' needs
- Ability and interest learning and transferring knowledge to clinical situations
- Ability to work effectively with people in authority and with co-workers
- Ability to accept constructive criticism and show behavioral change

Physical stamina – ability to stand for long periods of time, without breaks, for 4 to 6 hours or longer during procedures and have good bladder control for extended periods of time – 4 to 6 hours or longer. Ability to reach and lift heavy (20 lbs. or more) operating room instruments and equipment. Ability to help lift and move anesthetized surgical patients (some may weigh in excess of 200 lbs.) Ability to adapt to early morning work schedule, rotating shifts and to be “on-call” for emergency surgery.





Must possess the following personal characteristics:

- Personal integrity
- Emotional stability
- Flexibility
- Ability to establish and maintain effective interpersonal relationships
- No active skin conditions such as psoriasis, eczema, or allergic reactions to soaps, latex gloves, or strong chemical solutions
- Normal vision – glasses or contact lenses are acceptable
- Normal hearing – a surgical technologist needs to be able to hear and clearly understand masked surgeons and surgical team members
- Must be chemically free
- Must be free of active contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, etc.
- Digital dexterity, e.g.: able to handle surgical instruments with both left and right hands at an extremely rapid pace, able to supinate and pronate at the wrist
- Must be willing to dedicate 4 to 5 hours daily to studies
- At times may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials





CAREER OUTLOOK

Most graduates are employed by hospitals, mainly in operating rooms and delivery rooms. Others are employed in clinics, surgical centers, and in the office of physicians and dentists who perform outpatient surgery. A few technologists, known as private scrubs, are employed directly by surgeons who have special surgical teams, such as those for liver transplants.



Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and willing to relocate. Texas graduates must now be certified in order to gain employment.

PROJECTED SALARY

Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and for those who are willing to relocate.



With the Rio Grande Valley's rapidly growing population, quality healthcare has become vital to the area's existence. Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010 as the volume of surgery increases. The number of surgical procedures is expected to rise as the population grows and ages.

Technological advances, such as fiber optics and laser technology, will also permit new surgical procedures to be performed.

Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer of surgical technologists, although much faster employment growth is expected in offices of physicians and in outpatient care centers, including ambulatory surgical centers.

Starting salary ranges for surgical technologists range from \$27,000-\$28,200 in the Valley and from \$28,000-\$32,000 out of the Valley.





EARNINGS

Median annual wages of wage-and-salary surgical technologists were \$38,740 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$32,490 and \$46,910. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$27,510, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$54,300. Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of surgical technologists were as follows:

Wages of surgical technologists vary with their experience and education, the responsibilities of the position, the working hours, and the economy of a given region of the country. Benefits provided by most employers include paid vacation and sick leave; health, medical, vision, dental, and life insurance; and a retirement program. A few employers also provide tuition reimbursement and child care benefits.

Specialty (except psychiatric and substance abuse) hospitals	\$40,880
Outpatient care centers	39,660
General medical and surgical hospitals	38,640
Offices of physicians	38,520
Offices of dentists	36,380





CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Technologists advance by specializing in a particular area of surgery, such as neurosurgery or open-heart surgery. They also may work as circulating technologists. With additional training, some technologists advance to first assistant. Some surgical technologists manage central supply departments in hospitals or take positions with insurance companies, sterile supply services, and operating equipment firms.

Advancement for most Surgical Technicians means an increase in pay which comes with additional experience, training, or certification. Some may advance to operating room supervisors, directing other technicians, or become assistant operating room administrators who order supplies and arrange work schedules among other administrative duties. They may advance to become Surgical First Assistants. With additional education and training, Surgical Technicians may advance to become registered nurses or physician's assistants.





ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of all admission requirements to Texas State Technical College.
2. An unofficial copy of transcripts from previously attended colleges. Applicants must have earned a high school diploma or a GED certificate.
3. Copy of THEA/Accuplacer scores. **Any student who does not pass all sections of THEA/Accuplacer will be required to remediate the sections not mastered. This will extend the duration of the completion of the AAS plan. The amount of time needed to master THEA/Accuplacer will determine the duration of the program. Surgical Technology advisors will guide the students throughout the general academic process to prepare the student for SRGT courses.**
4. **Program-specific application submitted to the Office of Student Success and the Surgical Technology Program. Must submit THEA/Accuplacer scores and High School/College transcripts with application.**
5. *Must contact the Office of Student Success for advisement and guidance in the Surgical Technology degree plan. Contact phone numbers are 956-364-4181 and 956-364-4142.*
6. Attend Surgical Technology Program Information Session when requested by the Office of Student Success.





SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CLASS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. **Completion of prerequisite courses.** The prerequisite courses for the Associates degree are as follows: HRPO 1311, HPRS 2300, BIOL 2301, 2302, 2321, HITT 1305, MATH 1314, PSYC 2301, 2314, ENGL 1301, Humanities/Fine Arts Elective, and SPCH elective.
2. **Current Immunization documentation.** (Students without a current immunization card will have to acquire one at the TSTC immunization clinics) ****Needed upon commencement of SRGT 1460. Complete Hepatitis A and B series. Proof of MMR and Varicella. Student will be responsible for checking with school nurse and staff to inquire about the dates which the vaccines will be administered as well as prices.***
3. **Current physical examination from personal physician.** The applicant must be in **good physical and mental health.** The applicant must be able to meet the physical requirements of the educational program, as detailed in the form. Applicant's signature denotes ability to meet the **essential physical and mental requirements.** In the event that applicant cannot meet the requirements at any time throughout the entire course, he or she must voluntarily withdraw from the program. ****Needed upon commencement of SRGT 1405/1409 and 1460.***
4. **Applicants must have a minimum of a 2.0 Grade Point Average.**





5. **Completion of the Surgical Technology Aptitude Test (HOBET).**
6. Completion of **Criminal Background Check** to be conducted by Campus Police. The applicant must have all civil rights at the time of application and throughout the program. **Prior and present felony convictions may restrict admission and continuation in the program, depending on the specific nature of the crime.** Each circumstance will be reviewed on an individual basis by campus police.
7. **Drug Screen Test must be done prior to acceptance into the program.** The Drug Screen Test will be scheduled prior to program acceptance.
8. **Must complete a hospital tour and observation scheduled by the Office of Student Success.**
9. **Must have a Social Security Number to obtain employment and admission into the program.**



SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS

- The program director and academic advisors will review all submitted portfolios to make sure all forms have been received, are properly completed, and minimum requirements met.
- Students will be selected to enter SRGT 1405/1409/1460 based on the results of the HOBET test, completion of prerequisites, immunizations, criminal background check, and successfully passing a drug screen test. Students will be ranked accordingly and will be accepted into the program.
- All other applicants will be placed on a waiting list based on total points. If an opening occurs in the program prior to the start of the academic year, students on the waiting list may be called.
- The accepted candidates will be notified of a meeting to complete class registration forms and other related forms.





CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG TESTING GUIDELINES

- Health students entering any of the Valley Area Hospitals must meet the Community Standards criteria to participate in clinical.
- The criminal background check is performed by the TSTC Police Department. Students pay the TSTC cashier for the screening and fill out a release form so results can be sent to the TSTC Police Department.
- No reports are sent directly to the clinical facilities. The college will send written notification to the facility stating that the students have been approved for the clinical site if there are no reports that prohibit their attendance.
- Students identified as having a report that inhibits their attendance to clinical will not be allowed to enroll in the Allied Health program of choice.
- Students wishing to appeal the decision regarding clinical attendance are eligible to use the normal academic appeal procedure. The student must submit a written request to the TSTC Police Department.





- Any student found to have illegal or un-authorized drugs in their drug screen test will not be allowed to attend clinical for a year and will need to reapply for admission or readmission depending on their status. Subsequent approval to attend will depend on a clean drug test.
- ❖ Drug screen test will be conducted prior to the first semester of SRGT courses.
- ❖ A random drug screen test may be conducted during 1461 or 2462.

The college community has a zero tolerance drug and drug paraphernalia policy strictly enforced at TSTC Harlingen, which is a drug-free zone. Student offenders are subject to an immediate one-year suspension and permanent eviction from housing if they are a dormitory resident. There also are justice system consequences after an arrest by College Police. Don't let drug possession derail your educational and career goals by making a poor decision to bring illegal substances or paraphernalia onto college property – including parking lots, the Wellness & Sports Center, and residential housing areas.



IMMUNIZATIONS



Hepatitis A (2 doses)
Hepatitis B (3 doses)
MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
Varicella (Chickenpox)*

TB Test (Tuberculosis)‡

Immunization Clinics are scheduled on a monthly basis with the Campus Nurse. See advisor for dates and pricing.

A physical exam is required prior to acceptance from your personal physician.



**If prospect had illness, this must be documented.*

‡ Must have TB test prior to commencement of SRGT courses.

DEGREE PLAN

Prerequisite Courses*

Semester 1		Credit Hours
BIOL 2301/2101	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
HITT 1305	Medical Terminology	3
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3
HRPO 1311	Human Relations	3
Semester 2		
BIOL 2302/2102	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3
HPRS 2300	Pharmacology for Health Professionals	3
Semester 3		
BIOL 2321/2121	Microbiology	4
PSYC 2314	Life Span Growth & Development	3
SPCH ____	Speech Elective	3
Humanities	Fine Arts Elective	3



*These courses must be completed with a C or better prior to ST program acceptance.

HOSPITAL TOUR/OBSERVATION



Purpose: A major goal of the pre-surgical tech program is to assist you in understanding the role of the surgical technologist and the many career-related experiences you may encounter in health care-related work environments.

An orientation visit to the Operating Room at Valley Baptist Medical Center is required so pre-Surgical Technology students can observe a surgical procedure. Some considerations:

- Pre-Surgical Technology students need to provide their own transportation to and from the hospital.
- Only two students allowed per observation.
- Sign-up for orientation and observations at the Office of Student Success D-138.
- On-time arrival at the hospital is mandatory.





WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Reliable transportation is imperative!
A flexible schedule is necessary as your schedule will vary!

Clinical Experience:

Students will continue with theory classes (both in class and online) and will participate in clinical experience at various area hospitals. The ST Program is affiliated with 13 hospitals, day surgery clinics and eye clinics. Students are evaluated by a clinical instructor randomly throughout the semester. Supervision is provided by the affiliated hospital's personnel and management. Clinical instructors will receive a weekly report on the student's performance. Students are expected to be punctual and well-prepared when attending the clinical sites. Preceptor forms will be submitted to the clinical instructor on a weekly basis.





RESOURCES

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos106.htm

O*NET

<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

TSTC Surgical Technology Site

harlingen.tstc.edu/surgtech/index.aspx

GST Program Site

www.tstcgst.com



www.facebook.com/TSTCgst

Extra Resources for campus events, program updates and important information.

A fast and easy way to have your questions answered.





Contact Information:

Your advisor during the
Pre-Tech program.

Robert Foshie, Pre-Tech Advisor
General Studies in Technology
Office of Student Success
Bldg. D Room 138-B
Ofc: 956-364-4181 Fax: 956-364-5193
robert.foshie@harlingen.tstc.edu





ST Instructors/Advisors

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QUESTIONS?

This presentation brought to you by:
The General Studies in Technology program in
collaboration with the Surgical Technology Program.

