

Surgical Technology

Pre-Tech Program

A. What is the Surgical Technology Pre-Tech Program?

This program affords Pre-Surgical Technology students seeking admission to the Surgical Technology program experiential opportunities to observe the skills, the surgical environment, and the dynamics of interactions present in surgical procedures.

Pre-Surgical Technology students will have the opportunity to talk to instructors, current Surgical Technology students, and graduates working in the Surgical Technology field. These discussions, as well as question and answer sessions, will provide interested students with important information on program commitment and requirements.

B. How is the program structured?

Pre-Surgical Technology students are invited to participate in four activities during the semester. They are:

- Observation of ST lab practices
- Orientation visit to the OR (operating room) at Valley Baptist Hospital
- Observation of actual surgical procedures at Valley Baptist Hospital
- Question/answer session with ST graduates and faculty

The orientation visit to the OR at Valley Baptist Hospital is required before 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 for observing surgical procedures.
- Sign-up for hospital orientation and surgical observations at the Student Success Office Room 138 in the “D” Biomedical Technology Building (364-4181).
- On-time arrival at the hospital is mandatory.

Pre-Surgical Technology students are asked to make one visit to the ST lab to observe the teaching environment that simulates hospital OR environments.

A question/answer session will be held toward the end of the semester.

Hospital Tour Instructions for Pre-Surgical Technology Students

1. Meet at the East Tower at Valley Baptist Hospital in the lobby on your assigned date and time. Mr. Sanchez will meet you in the lobby. Please be at the Hospital lobby **exactly at 6:30 am** for observations. **(note: Times may change depending on semester)**
2. Dress business casual with comfortable shoes (jeans and tennis shoes are acceptable) **NO** shorts or skirts.
3. Please **DO NOT** wear jewelry, especially dangling ear rings.
4. Please **REMOVE** all body piercing studs/rings.
5. Please leave all purses, wallets, and bags in your car. The hospital will not be responsible for your personal items.
6. **Please be sure you keep your commitment for the hospital tour. If there is a change in your plans call Robert Foshie in the Student Success Office at 364-4181 and let us know if you will not be able to do the tour.**
7. If no one comes to get you in the lobby, call 389-1866 to let the instructor know you are waiting to go to the OR.

Prospective Surgical Technician Assignment REFLECTION

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

One skill that is required in the surgical technology program is the ability to do “write-ups” on surgical procedures. To help you gain some preliminary knowledge and skill in this area, we are asking that you complete the following reflective assignment after your observation at the hospital. Answer all the questions as completely as possible within **48 hours** of your observation. **Please put your name and the date at the top of the page.**

Please e-mail your responses to **Robert Foshie (robert.foshie@harlingen.tstc.edu)**, and they will be copied to Mr. Sanchez. A record of your observations and reflection assignments will be included in your prospective Surgical Technology portfolio. *Please note, you are only allowed to bring in a pocket-sized memo pad to take notes! No loose paper or spiral notebooks are allowed!*

Based on what you observe, please answer the following questions. Remember to answer as completely as you can. Please include your name and the date you attended the observation at the top of your reflection.

1. What did you observe about the “write-ups” and the interactions between the instructors and students?
2. What medical procedure did you observe?
3. Make some observations about the **operating environment** before, during, or after the medical procedure. Use your senses. What did you see, hear, touch, feel (such as room temperature), and smell
4. What tasks did the surgical technician perform before, during, and after the procedure?
5. Did you observe any limitations to the surgical technician’s role?
6. In observing the class write-ups and the surgical procedure, what did you learn about the surgical technology program and a possible career as a surgical technician? Consider how surgical technicians play a vital role in the delivery of health care to the community.