



**TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE  
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
PROGRAM APPLICATION 2024**

# **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Surgical Technology Department (SRGT). This application packet includes the admission requirements, the point system for selection, the curriculum and information to help you start the application process.

The Surgical Technology Department is accredited by the **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)**. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved both a 21-month and a nine-month curriculum for the program. The Tyler Junior College (TJC) Surgical Technology Department offers an **Associate in Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology**.

TJC is an open-admission college; however, acceptance into the Surgical Technology Program is limited. Acceptance into the program is based on criteria utilizing a point system, interview process and reviewed by an admissions committee. Because of limited enrollment, not all applicants who meet the basic admission requirements will be accepted into the program. Applicant ranking by the point system and the interview process will determine admission decisions.

Students planning to apply for admission to the Surgical Technology Department must complete all requirements and see the program's staff technician. All completed applications must be submitted to the **staff technician or department chair no later than May 24, 2024**. The application period opens on Jan. 16, 2024 and closes on May 24, 2024. The program's application is located online at [www.tjc.edu/SurgicalTech](http://www.tjc.edu/SurgicalTech). No uncompleted application will be accepted.

Unless notified otherwise, open orientation, with a question-and-answer period, is scheduled for **May 24, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Surgical Classroom (RNHS 2.217), at the TJC Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center (RNHSC)**. You will receive **five extra points** for attending this orientation. **If you are selected to participate in the interview process, you will receive an email informing you of your scheduled interview time, date and location.** The open orientation is for all who have submitted a completed application to the Surgical Technology Department.

*Every effort is made to assure accuracy of the information in this packet, but please be aware that stipulations set forth are subject to change.*

For questions or more information, please call 903-510-2962.

Sincerely,  
Stormie Ray, CST  
Professor/Department Chair  
Surgical Technology Department  
[stormie.perry@tjc.edu](mailto:stormie.perry@tjc.edu)

# **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

## **History of Surgical Technology**

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.

This allied health profession was developed during World War II, when there was a critical need for assistance in performing surgical procedures and a shortage of qualified personnel to meet that need. Individuals were educated specifically to assist in surgical procedures. From that need, the profession of surgical technology has grown to meet the continuing demand for well-educated, highly skilled and versatile men and women who work with the surgeon and other skilled professionals to deliver the highest possible level of patient care.

## **The Surgical Technologist**

### **Personal characteristics:**

- Ability to perform under pressure in stressful and emergency situations
- A stable temperament
- A strong sense of responsibility
- Considerable patience
- Organized
- Manual dexterity and physical stamina are vital
- Able to work quickly
- Oriented to detail
- Sensitive to needs of others

## **Description of the Profession**

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. Surgical technologists work under the supervision of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures, ensuring that the operating room environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety. Surgical technologists possess expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combine the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

### **Scrub Surgical Technologist**

The scrub surgical technologist handles the instruments, supplies and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure. He/she has an understanding of the procedure and is constantly on vigil for maintenance of the sterile field.

### **Circulating Surgical Technologist**

The circulating surgical technologist obtains additional instruments, supplies and equipment necessary while the surgical procedure is in progress. He/she monitors conditions in the operating room and constantly assesses the needs of the patient and surgical team.



## **Second Assisting Surgical Technologist**

The second assisting surgical technologist assists the surgeon and/or first assistant during the operative procedure by carrying out technical tasks other than cutting, clamping and suturing of tissue. This role is distinct from that of the first assistant and may, in some circumstances, be performed at the same time as the scrub role.

## **Surgical Assist Surgical Technologist**

The certified surgical technologist acting as an assistant to the surgeon during the operation does so under the direction and supervision of that surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations.

As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the first assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis and other technical functions that will help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. First assistants must be educated in the use of surgical instruments on tissues versus the handling of instruments. This role is not performed at the same time as the scrub role.

## **Working Conditions**

Surgical technologists work in clean, brightly lit, relative quiet, cool environments. At times they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors and materials. Most of their duties require standing, sometimes for a number of hours, and it is imperative that their attention be focused closely on the task at hand. Most surgery is performed during the day, but many hospitals and surgicenters require 24-hour coverage. A 40-hour week is common, although most are required to be periodically “on-call” – available to work on short notice in cases of emergency.

## **Employment, Job Market and Salary**

**Many surgical technologists are employed in the following departments:**

- Operating rooms
- Delivery rooms
- Cast rooms
- Emergency rooms
- Ambulatory care areas
- Central supply departments
- Management roles in surgical services
- Private scrub role
- Private physicians' offices
- Home health
- Cardiac catheterization labs
- Medical sales
- Instructors/directors in surgical technology programs

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field of surgical technology is projected to experience rapid job growth. Career opportunities and job placements have never been better than they are now, and the future continues to look even brighter.

### **Salary**

Salaries vary in areas of the United States and are based on shift work, job responsibilities and job experience. The average starting salary nationally is \$41,600 to \$56,900.



# **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

## **Admissions and Student Placement Guidelines**

TJC Surgical Technology (SRGT) Department will be accepting a new class in Summer 2024. The profession of surgical technology includes orientation to surgical technology, aseptic techniques, various surgical procedures, communication and behavioral sciences, basic sciences and surgical preparation.

The profession requires the ability to perform under pressure in stressful and emergency situations. A stable temperament, a strong sense of responsibility, considerable patience, and concern for order are required. This individual works under the supervision of a surgeon to ensure that the operating room or environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

A balanced curriculum of general didactic and clinical courses offers the student an opportunity for cultural development as well as occupational competence. Clinical instruction is given at East Texas area hospitals and surgical centers. Once accepted into the department, the professor/department chair will assign the students a clinical education site. Students are responsible for their own transportation and are expected to be in the clinical area on time as scheduled. There is no monetary compensation given by the clinical site or TJC.

**As a surgical technology student, job tasks include:**

- Performing a competent surgical scrub
- Gowning and gloving self and other health team members
- Understanding surgical procedure being performed
- Handling instruments, supplies and equipment properly and safely
- Directing patient interaction
- Basic clerical skills
- Health care team interaction
- Traveling to clinical sites
- A personal commitment
- Professionalism

## **Admission Process**

The admission requirements for the College are found in the college catalog. Although TJC has an open-door policy, specific programs in the College have **selective admission**. The SRGT department has selective admission because there are more students willing to enroll in the department than the department can accommodate. TJC Surgical Technology Department offers admission once per year at the RNHS building in the fall.

**Acceptance into the surgical technology program is via a competitive ranking process for selection based on a point system awarded for designated criteria.**

## Admission Highlights

**Application to the Surgical Technology Program requires the following steps:**

- Complete admissions application to TJC.
- Advisement by a School of Nursing and Health Sciences (NHS) advisor (Rogers Student Center, 2nd Floor) for academic counsel.
- Submit official transcripts from all previous colleges to TJC, if applicable, and to the Surgical Technology Program.
- Have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average (CGPA) to apply to the SRGT program. The SRGT program counts all attempted college courses when calculating the CGPA.
- Submission of Surgical Technology application packet during designated filing period.

**The following are the admission criteria for the SRGT program:**

- Application to TJC
  - Applicants must be 18 years or older to be selected to the program.
  - The admission requirements for the College are found in the college catalog located at [www.tjc.edu/catalog](http://www.tjc.edu/catalog). Admission to TJC does not guarantee admission to the Surgical Technology Program.
  - Applicants must apply to TJC by visiting [www.tjc.edu/apply](http://www.tjc.edu/apply) and submit all transcripts of all other colleges previously attended.
  - All students new to TJC may be required to participate in a testing and should participate in an advisement process after satisfying admissions requirements.
  - **Applications will not be processed if financial holds (parking ticket, library fine, etc.) are recorded at TJC.**
- Meeting with School of Nursing and Health Sciences advisor for evaluation of coursework.
  - To ensure transferability of coursework and completion of prerequisites, potential applicants must meet with NHS advisor prior application to the SRGT program. Transcripts and course descriptions will be evaluated, if necessary.
- **Prior to Enrollment in SRGT Courses**
  - Prior to enrollment in any SRGT course, the following courses must be complete: Anatomy & Physiology 1 (BIOL 2401), Anatomy & Physiology 2 (BIOL 2402), and Medical Terminology (HITT 1305).
  - It is strongly suggested that you take Microbiology (BIOL 2420) before taking any SRGT course.
  - All general education courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better to make application.
  - You must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average (CGPA) to apply to the SRGT program. The SRGT program counts all attempted college courses when calculating the CGPA.
- Program Location
  - The TJC Surgical Technology Program is located in the Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center (RNHS) - 1200 East Fifth Street – Tyler, Texas.
  - When applying for the fall admission class, applicants can only get an application from the program's website ([www.tjc.edu/SurgicalTech](http://www.tjc.edu/SurgicalTech)).
  - Applications can be submitted Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
  - Extension site is located in RNHS - 250.
  - All completed qualifying applications submitted by the deadline will be considered for placement.

**Contact Information (RNHS)**

- Suzanne Garrigan, Staff Technician: 903-510-2366
- Brenda Korich, Professor: 903-510-2963
- Stormie Ray, Department Chair/Professor: 903-510-2962
- Casey Feistner, Clinical Coordinator/Professor: 903-510-3332
- Nursing and Health Science Advisors: 903-510-2662





## Application Date

Fall 2024 Admission Class, Beginning of spring semester (Jan. 16-May 24)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 24, 2024**

## Information Session

An information session will be held for all applicants applying to the program on May 24, 2024. You will receive points for attending. These sessions will be held by the department chair and professors of the SRGT program, and they are held to answer questions and provide information about the SRGT program. This session will start at 10 a.m. in RNHS 2.217 at the Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center.

## Selection Process

After the individual points are calculated, applicants are placed in order, from the highest to lowest positions according to points.

**Applicants are awarded points based on the following criteria (see page 12 for point system calculation worksheet):**

- Prerequisites course grades
- General education course grades
- In-district residency (confirmed by TJC Registrar's Office)
- Current certificates or degrees in a health-related field
- Current employment in a health-related field
- GPA multiplied by 5

The top 35-40 applicants will be invited back for an interview. The applicant will receive an email and/or phone call informing them of their interview time. The interviews are normally held the first Saturday in June of each year. The interview panel will consist of the following: the department chair and professors of the program and six to eight people from the local clinical sites. Upon completion of the interview process, the designated number of students and alternates will be selected.

The applicant selected for conditional placement into the Department of Surgical Technology will receive a letter of notification from the department chair and the dean of Nursing and Health Sciences. You will have one week to accept your appointment into the surgical technology program by email. Failure to accept placement in the program will forfeit your place in the program. Any space vacated by forfeiture or health reasons will be filled from the alternate list.

**If you accept your placement in the program, you will receive the following forms: health, immunization, drug screening and criminal background check. You will have to:**

- Be in good health and furnish physical examination records. Forms will be provided by the program once the student is accepted into the program.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting during the summer (July) prior to program's first semester.
- Pass a drug screen at the student's expense when requested and as directed by the program. Positive drug screens can result in students not being admitted to the program.
- Agree to a criminal background check. Findings from the background check that do not meet clinical affiliation specifications will result in the student not being admitted to the program.
- Purchase school-approved uniforms, if required, for clinical experiences.
- Complete and provide written proof of a negative TB skin test or clear chest x-ray post conversion dated within three months of the beginning of clinical rotations.
- Complete all immunizations recommended by the Texas Department of State Health Services (<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>) OR (<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm>).
  - Tetanus, diphtheria – primary series or booster within the last 10 years
  - MMR – one or two doses if born before 1957
  - Varicella – 2 doses or documented age-appropriate vaccination or parent report/physician report of evidence of disease (chicken pox)
  - Hepatitis B – three-dose series at 0, 1 and 6 months
  - Flu vaccine
  - Bacterial Meningitis if required
  - COVID-19 Vaccine: Students may be required to provide proof of vaccination. TJC does not require the vaccine to attend classes, however, some of our community partners do require it for clinical rotations. In place of the vaccine, some sites may require routine COVID-19 testing. Requirements for testing, vaccination, or vaccine waivers are made entirely by clinical facilities. Students must comply with facilities requirements in order to participate in clinical activities. Students in the surgical technology program must rotate through all of our clinical sites in order to obtain the surgical case log numbers needed to graduate. COVID-19 vaccine and testing requirements are subject to change at any point during the program if our community partners revise their requirements.

## Functional Abilities

After initial acceptance to this program, all students are required to meet specific functional abilities/technical standards with or without accommodations for successful completion of the program and to function safely and effectively in a variety of professional/clinical settings. Students who think they may not be able to meet the functional standards and need accommodation are encouraged to contact the college Support Services department as soon as this program is of interest.

To confirm placement in the SRGT program, the SRGT office must receive an email of acceptance and required drug and criminal background check results and all health forms, including a physical form completed by a physician within three weeks of the notification letter or by mandatory orientation time.

Applicants not selected for conditional placement into the SRGT program will be notified in writing of their status. Positions vacated prior to orientation will be filled from the alternate list. After the first week of class, the alternate list will be destroyed and those individuals remaining on the list will not automatically be considered or receive priority in any future application periods.

## Technical Performance Standards

The Surgical Technology Program at TJC has adopted the following as minimum physical competencies for surgical technology students. These competencies outline reasonable expectations of a student for the performance of common surgical technology duties. If an applicant or student is unable to meet all of the outlined standards, he/she may be withdrawn from the program. The student must demonstrate the following minimum abilities.

**The student must independently be able to:**

- Perform complex psychomotor and physical tasks with or without accommodation which include, but are not limited to:
  - Accurately count and dispense items and correctly enter information onto a form or into a computer.
  - Move, adjust and manipulate a variety of tasks (physical and technical) according to established procedures and standards of speed and accuracy.
  - Be on your feet for hours at a time.
  - Bend, lift heavy objects, turn, grasp and squat with full motion.
  - Handling stressful situations related to technology, procedures and patient care.
  - Communicating and listening effectively, in order to provide safe patient care.
  - Taking and following directions.
  - Performing precise, repetitious work — details are sometimes a matter of life and death.
  - Working on your own or as a team member without constant instruction from the clinical preceptors.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently in English in both oral and written forms.
- Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and complete tasks within required time limits.
- Demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise of good judgment.
- Show integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation.
- **Willing to travel to clinical sites out of town.**
- Properly wear all required PPE for surgical technologist job description.



## Special Admission and Readmission Requirements

- If selected into the program, an updated CPR card (Health Provider “C”) will be needed and obtained through AHA or ARC.
- Anyone convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, or hospitalized or treated for mental illness or chemical dependency, must contact the department chair.
- A student who knowingly furnishes false information or alters applications to TJC or any Nursing and Health Sciences department will be replaced or dismissed from program.

### Special Consideration:

- Student Support Services assists students with special needs. Please call 903-510-2395 for more information.
- If a Nursing and Health Sciences student is deployed for active military duty after enrollment or acceptance into a nursing and health professions department, a place will be reserved for the student in the next available class at TJC upon returning within one calendar year.
- Policies are evaluated biannually; therefore, a new packet of policies and guidelines must be secured for each application period.

## Mandatory Orientation

All accepted applicants will be required to attend a mandatory orientation, which will be held the last Friday in July of each year. The orientation will be held at the Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences building in room (RNHS 2.217) at 10 a.m. The applicant can turn in any required paperwork by this time. At this orientation, the department chair and professors of the program will discuss requirements, books, materials, uniforms and other information concerning the program.

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM POLICY

### Policy on Criminal Background Check Documentation

All applicants to our Nursing and Health Sciences programs must be able to pass a criminal background check that includes the provision of necessary documentation for the background check agency to make it reliable. Said documentation for the background agency may include an authenticated Social Security card and positive identification such as a driver's license or identification. The applicant to the SRGT program is required to have a criminal background check.

### Additional Information

Applicants not originally selected for tentative placement in the SRGT program will be notified in writing of a potential change from an alternate to a placement status and/or other alternates available at that time. Positions vacated in the class prior to class published date will be filled from the alternate list. Those individuals on the alternate list for the current class are not automatically considered for future enrollment and must reapply following established admission period guidelines.

Having been accepted into the program, enrollment is necessary for nine months to complete the surgical technology curriculum, graduate and to attain eligibility to take the national certification exam.

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

## Associate in Applied Science Degree, 2023-2024 Catalog

### First Year

#### Summer Session I

BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I  
ENGL 1301 Composition I

#### Semester I

BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II  
PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth & Development  
HITT 1305 Medical Terminology  
SOCL 1301 Introductory Sociology **OR**  
SOCL 1306

#### Semester II

SPCH 1315 Public Speaking **OR**  
SPCH 1311 **OR**  
SPCH 1318 **OR**  
SPCH 1321  
BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-Science  
Majors  
PSYC 2301 General Psychology

### Second Year

#### Semester III

SRGT 1405 Introduction to Surgical Technology  
SRGT 1409 Fundamentals Perioperative  
Concepts and Techniques  
SRGT 1541 Surgical Procedures I  
SRGT 1266 Practicum Surgical Technology/Technologist

#### Semester IV

SRGT 1542 Surgical Procedures II  
SRGT 1244 Technological Sciences  
for the Surg. Tech.  
SRGT 2130 Professional Readiness  
SRGT 2466 Practicum Surgical  
Technology/Technologist  
xxxx x3xx Language, Philosophy and  
Culture Core **OR**  
Creative Arts Core \*\*

Total Semester Hours: 60

**\*\*Language, Philosophy and Culture Core/Creative Arts Core** Elective: Any three-hour course in humanities or fine arts. It is recommended that all general education courses be completed before taking any SRGT course. Special admission and retention rules apply. Contact the department chair for details.

**Program requires criminal background and drug screen.** All applicants to our Nursing and Health Sciences programs must be able to pass a criminal background check that includes the provision of necessary documentation for the background check agency to make it reliable. Said documentation may include an authenticated Social Security card and positive identification such as a driver's license or identification card.

Strongly suggest microbiology (BIOL 2420) be taken before acceptance into the program. Special admission and retention rules apply. Contact the program director for details.

## Professor Contact Information:

### Brenda Korich

CST/FA, Professor, RNHS 273, [bkor@tjc.edu](mailto:bkor@tjc.edu), 903-510-2963

### Casey Feistner

CST, Clinical Coordinator/Professor, RNHS 276, [casey.feistner@tjc.edu](mailto:casey.feistner@tjc.edu), 903-510-3332

### Stormie Ray

CST, Professor/Department Chair, RNHS 250, [stormie.perry@tjc.edu](mailto:stormie.perry@tjc.edu), 903-510-2962

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

## Point System for Admission

Selection for placement into the surgical technology program is based on a point system. The far right column can be used as a work sheet to calculate your estimated points.

Required:	Points Possible	Your Total Points
1. GPA (must be 2.5 or higher) x5	20	_____
2. Medical Terminology (HITT 1305)		
• A	6	_____
• B	4	
• C	2	
3. Anatomy & Physiology I (BIOL 2401)		
• A	6	
• B	4	_____
• C	2	
4. Anatomy & Physiology II (BIOL 2402)		
• A	6	
• B	4	_____
• C	2	
<b>Additional Points:</b>		
5. Former Education	5	
• BS	4	_____
• AAS	3	
• BA	2	
• AA		
6. Current Healthcare Work Experience	5	
Healthcare related (i.e. RT, CNA, LVN, etc.)		_____
<i>Proof of employment required with returned packet</i>		
7. Other Classes Completed for A.A.S. Degree		
(ENGL 1301, SOCI 1301, PSYC 2301, PSYC 2314,		
BIOL 2420, SPCH 1315, and HUMANITIES or FINE ARTS)		
• A	6	
• B	4	
• C	2	_____
8. Open Orientation	5	_____
9. Interview Process	80	_____
10. Residence Status		
• In-district	3	_____

Estimated Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_



# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

## Fall Semester Schedule - SRGT Courses (Before operating room clinical rotations start)

Course		Time	Days
SRGT 1405	Introduction to Surgical Technology	8-8:50 a.m.	T/TH/F
SRGT 1405	Lab	8-8:50 a.m.	M/W
SRGT 1409	Fundamentals of Aseptic Technique	9-9:50 a.m.	T/TH/F
SRGT 1409	Lab	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	F
SRGT 1541	Surgical Procedures I	10-10:50 a.m.	T/TH
SRGT 1541	Lab	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	M/W
SPD Clinical Rotation*		8 a.m.-2 p.m. OR 2-8 p.m.	M/W

\*SPD — Sterile Processing Department - (students will learn how to clean, package, re-sterilize and store instrumentation)

## Fall Semester Courses SRGT Courses (After operating room clinical rotations start)

Course		Time	Days
SRGT 1405	Introduction to Surgical Technology	8-8:50 a.m.	T/TH/F
SRGT 1405	Lab	1-1:50 p.m.	T/TH
SRGT 1409	Fundamentals of Aseptic Technique	9-9:50 a.m.	T/TH/F
SRGT 1409	Lab	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	F
SRGT 1541	Surgical Procedures I	10-10:50 a.m.	T/TH
SRGT 1541	Lab	2-5 p.m.	T/TH
Clinical I		6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	M/W
Post-Surgical Conference		11-11:50 a.m.	T/TH

*Some clinical sites are in Jacksonville, Henderson and Longview, so as a student in this program, you will have to travel to these sites.*

## Spring Semester Courses

Course	Time	Days
SRGT 1542 Surgical Procedures II	8-9:50 a.m.	W
SRGT 1542 Lab	10-11:50 p.m.	W
Lunch		
SRGT 1542 Lab	12-12:50 p.m.	W
SRGT 2466 (PRACTICUM II)	6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 6:30-10:30 a.m.	M/T/T F
SRGT 1244 Technical Sciences	12-1:50 p.m.	F
SRGT 2130 Professional Readiness	2-2:50 p.m.	F
Post-Surgical Conference	3-4 p.m.	T/TH



## **Most Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When Do Classes Start?**

There is only one cohort of surgical technology each year. Classes begin in the fall semester. Check the TJC schedule of classes for the start date for each year.

### **How Long is the Program?**

The TJC Surgical Technology Department is a 21-month Associate in Applied Science degree plan only. Normally, the program begins in late August and ends in May.

### **Can I Start In the Spring or Summer?**

You may not begin taking surgical technology courses in the spring or summer, because you must be selected to be in the program before you can take any surgical technology courses. Contact the department chair to assist you in developing a course order.

### **Are Classes Offered at Night or on the Weekend?**

Classes are only offered during the day.

### **Are Any Classes Offered Through Correspondence?**

Not at this time.



**Can I Receive Financial Aid?**

Financial aid is available for surgical technology students who qualify. Please contact the TJC Financial Aid Office at 903-510-2385, to determine if you may be eligible for a grant, scholarship or student loans. This is a lengthy process, so you should contact that office as soon as possible.

**Will I Get Much Actual Hands-on Training?**

Yes! The program is a competency-based educational program designed to meet the employer's needs. The program is equipped with a surgical technology lab, and the students will receive extensive hands-on training in various clinical settings. The employers are confident that our students can start to work and be immediately productive.

**Is it Easy to Get a Job After I Complete the Program?**

If you want a job, you should be able to find one. Our department is endorsed and recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) as an excellent training facility in surgical technology.

**Additional Supplies Needed for the Surgical Technology Program?**

- Surgical Technology Uniform x 2 or three sets - \$80 each
- White Athletic Shoes with great support (leather, no clogs) - \$50
- OSHA-approved safety glasses - \$15
- Hepatitis Vaccine (three series of shots) \$30 (Included in Health Fee)
- Flu Shot
- Physical Exam \$50 or more (if TJC Health Clinic is not utilized)
- CST Practice Exam - \$50 (included in spring tuition)
- Surgical Technology Pin - \$10.50 (included in spring tuition)
- Passport picture for national certification exam application - \$12.50 (included in spring tuition)
- Professional Organization Membership and Certification Exam fee- \$237 (included in spring tuition)
- Drug Screening and Criminal Background Check - \$10/\$20
- Small pocket memo pad for taking notes in the clinical area - \$2/\$3
- Any vaccine required of our community partners will be at the student's own expense. This includes the COVID-19 vaccine if applicable.



## Clinical Case Requirements

Each graduate of the program must complete the following clinical requirements to graduate.

### First Scrub Role

The student surgical technologist shall perform the following duties during any given surgical procedure with proficiency. The following list is provided to identify the items that must be completed in order to document a case in the first scrub role. A student not meeting the five criteria below cannot count the case in the first scrub role and the case must be documented in the second scrub role or observation role:

- Verify supplies and equipment needed for the surgical procedure.
- Set up the sterile field with instruments, supplies, equipment, medication(s) and solutions needed for the procedure.
- Perform counts with the circulator prior to the procedure and before the incision is closed.
- Pass instruments and supplies to the sterile surgical team members during the procedure.
- Maintain sterile technique as measured by recognized breaks in technique and demonstrate knowledge of how to correct with appropriate technique.

### Second Scrub Role

The second scrub role is defined as the student who is at the sterile field who has not met all criteria for the first scrub role, but actively participates in the surgical procedure in its entirety by completing any of the following:

- Sponging
- Suctioning

- Cutting suture
- Holding retractors
- Manipulating endoscopic camera

### Observation Role

The observation role is defined as the student who is in the operating room performing roles that do not meet the criteria for the first or second role. These observation cases are not to be included in the required case count, but must be documented by the program.

## Case Count Requirements

1. The total number of cases the student must complete is 120.
2. Students are required to complete 30 cases in General Surgery. Twenty of the cases must be in the first scrub role.
3. Students are required to complete 90 cases in various surgical specialties. Sixty of the cases must be in the first scrub role. The remaining 10 cases may be performed in either the first or second scrub role.
  - A minimum of 60 surgical specialty cases must be performed in the first scrub role and distributed among a minimum of four surgical specialties.
  - A minimum of **10 cases** in the **first scrub role** must be completed in each of the required minimum of four surgical specialties (40 cases total required).
  - The additional 20 cases in the first scrub role may be distributed among any one surgical or multiple surgical specialties.
  - The remaining 30 surgical specialty cases may be performed in any surgical specialty either in the first or second scrub role.

However, 15 is the maximum number of cases that can be counted in any one surgical specialty.

4. The surgical technology program is required to verify through the surgical rotation documentation of the students' progression in first and second scrubbing surgical procedures of increased complexity as he/she moves toward entry-level graduate abilities.
5. Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory. But up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases and 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted toward maximum number of second scrub role cases.
6. Observation cases must be documented but do not count toward the 120 required cases.

### 7. Counting Cases

- Cases will be counted according to surgical specialty. Examples:
  - Trauma patient requires a splenectomy and repair of a LeFort I fracture. Two cases can be counted and documented since the splenectomy is general surgery specialty and repair of LeFort I is oral-maxillofacial surgical specialty.
  - Patient requires a breast biopsy followed by mastectomy. It is one pathology, breast cancer, and the specialty is general surgery; therefore, it is counted and documented as one procedure – one case.
  - Endoscopic cases that convert to an open case (e.g.: Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy converted to an Open Cholecystectomy) are counted and documented as one procedure – one case.

## Accreditation Status

### What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a system for recognizing educational institutions and professional programs affiliated with those institutions for a level of performance, integrity and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public they serve.

The Surgical Technology Department is one of nearly 2000 accredited allied health education programs. The program is accredited by:

### The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

9355 - 113th St. N. #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

Phone: 727-210-2350

Fax: 727-210-2354

E-mail: [mail@caahep.org](mailto:mail@caahep.org)

Website: [CAAHEP.org](http://CAAHEP.org)

In November of 2015, the Surgical Technology Department was granted Continuing Accreditation through the year 2025.

## National Certification Examination

After successfully completing the surgical technology program, the graduate will take the Surgical Technology National Certifying Exam. This is an accreditation required test and it is given 14-21 days post graduation. The fees below (\$190/\$45) are calculated in with the student's tuition during the spring semester. Study sessions/practice exams are held during the fall and spring semesters to help prepare students to take the national certification exam.

- The test costs \$190 for AST members and \$290 for non-members
- Membership fee costs \$45
- The test can be taken three times per year and consists of 175-200 multiple-choice questions covering knowledge in three main areas:
  - **Fundamental knowledge:** basic sciences, infection control, concepts of patient care, occupational hazards.
  - **Preoperative Preparation:** physical environment of the O.R., patient, scrub tasks (i.e., scrub, gown, glove, basic setups and counts).
  - **Intraoperative and Postoperative Procedures:** indications for surgery, instrumentation, equipment, maintenance of sterile field, care/handling/usage, counts, emergency measures, and terminal disinfection.