



## Surgical Technology Program Technical Standards

The students enrolled in the Surgical Technology Program should be able to meet the established technical standards identified below with or without reasonable accommodation. The technical standards for the Surgical Technology Program are representative of those found in the Surgical Technology profession.

Area	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
<b>Physical Skills</b>	<i>Students must perform physical activities that require considerable use of their hands, arms, and legs. This includes fine motor abilities like finger dexterity, manual dexterity, arm-hand steadiness and trunk strength. This must be done in a timely manner for safe and effective patient care.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, hands, and arms.</li> <li>● Demonstrate the ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp retractors, manipulate or assemble instrument parts quickly with good hand-eye coordination</li> <li>● Demonstrate the ability to quickly and continuously pass instruments in a timely manner with precision.</li> <li>● Ability to stand in one spot for an extensive amount of time as well as during shorter surgical procedures.</li> <li>● Sufficient strength to lift, push, pull, and support as it relates to surgical instrument trays, patient lifting and positioning.</li> <li>● Wear personal, protective equipment for safe practices (masks, eyewear etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Skills</b>	<i>Students must have hearing sufficient to perform surgical technology tasks. Possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs of the</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the person's mouth and lips.</li> <li>● Detect activation/warning signals on equipment</li> </ul>



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	<p><i>surgeon and other operating room team members.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have vision sufficient for observation and assessment necessary during a surgical procedure.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have the tactile ability to perform a surgical technologist's duties in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have olfactory abilities that would permit detection of odors within the surgical environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● See the sterile field, back table, instruments, and supplies clearly without holding items closer than 12 inches from the face with or without corrective lenses and wearing safety glasses.</li> <li>● Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate the surgeon and function in the sterile field</li> <li>● Hold and operate instruments/retractors at correct strength for surgical procedures</li> <li>● Able to tolerate exposure to a wide range of chemical and biological agents that could be potentially harmful.</li> <li>● Able to detect temperature differences, surface characteristics and anatomical variances.</li> <li>● Able to detect unusual odors.</li> <li>● Able to tolerate exposure to different temperatures.</li> <li>● Able to tolerate exposure to different chemicals and causative agents utilized in the surgical work environment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication Skills</b></p>	<p><i>Students must effectively communicate verbally, nonverbally, in writing, with groups and using information technology.</i></p> <p><i>The student must be able to interact appropriately with patients, peers, and with all members of the surgical team.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss and ask questions regarding surgical procedures both preoperatively and intraoperatively.</li> <li>● Convey information in a clear, professional and timely manner</li> <li>● Listen and respond to others in an accepting and respectful manner</li> <li>● Able to cope with strong emotions and physical outbursts of clients while remaining in a reasonable state of calm</li> </ul>



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	<p><i>Students must be able to interpret and convey information gathered from communications.</i></p> <p><i>Students must be able to demonstrate emotional stability, adapt to changing environment/stress.</i></p> <p><i>Students must demonstrate interpersonal skills within the work environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Able to focus attention on client needs despite interruptions and multiple demands</li> <li>● Able to apply knowledge gained in classroom to establish appropriate relationships with clients, families and coworkers</li> <li>● Able to interact as a member of the healthcare team</li> <li>● Able to show respect for diversity in culture, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status and abilities/disabilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical Thinking Skills</b></p>	<p><i>Students must measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><i>They must demonstrate critical thinking, problem-solving and the decision-making ability needed to during surgical procedures both independently and as a member of the surgical team.</i></p> <p><i>They must demonstrate clinical competency and participate in all clinical experiences.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply broad concepts to clinical situations</li> <li>● Concentrate to correctly perform surgical technology tasks within the scope of practice</li> <li>● Make correct judgments on seeking consultation or supervision in a timely manner</li> <li>● Demonstrate problem-solving skills preoperatively, intraoperatively and postoperatively.</li> <li>● Be observant of contamination of sterile areas and know how to correct the situation.</li> <li>● Combine pieces of information to form conclusions and to apply surgical practices.</li> <li>● Bring together and relate similarities of surgical procedures and situation in order to function on unfamiliar procedures</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Quickly assess needs for surgical procedures, anticipate surgeons needs and act appropriately at all times.</li> <li>● Set up the instrument table and mayo stand for function and efficiency.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety Skills</b>	<i>The student must apply knowledge, skills and experience to provide a safe work environment.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Able to work in an environment with potentially infectious materials</li> <li>● Demonstrate adherence to safety guidelines and regulations</li> <li>● Recognize potentially hazardous conditions and take appropriate actions</li> <li>● Maintain immunization and health care requirements</li> <li>● Utilize personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, eyewear, gown)</li> <li>● Operate equipment, adhering to safety standards</li> <li>● Identify and resolve unsafe situations</li> <li>● Be familiar with and follow emergency procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Professionalism</b>	<p><i>Students must demonstrate cross-cultural competency, integrity, moral reasoning, ethical behaviors and concern for others.</i></p> <p><i>They must acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with diverse individuals and communities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a professional working rapport with surgeons, anesthesia personnel, surgical technologists, nurses and a variety of other departmental staff as well as patients.</li> <li>● Exhibit positive interpersonal skills in patient, staff and faculty interactions</li> <li>● Demonstrate appropriate impulse control and professional level of maturity.</li> </ul>



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	<p><i>They must work cooperatively with intra and inter professional teams, adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice, and function effectively under stress.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Recognize appropriate boundaries in relationships with patients and colleagues</li><li>● Demonstrate good team building skills</li><li>● Handle demanding clinical assignments and handle the stress that goes with it.</li><li>● Demonstrate calm and effective behavior and responses, especially during emergency situations.</li></ul>
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*Gateway Technical College is committed to providing access and equal opportunity for all. Reasonable accommodations are provided for all education services, programs, and activities for individuals with disabilities. Students must be able to demonstrate these abilities with or without reasonable accommodations. Accommodations are determined and provided by disability support services. For more information related to the accommodations process, please visit <https://www.gtc.edu/dss>*