



# **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**



# **STUDENT APPLICATION PACKET 2021**

## Table of Contents

Program Description	Pg. 3
Program Expectations	Pg. 3
Physical Stamina	Pg. 4
ADA	Pg. 4
Employment	Pg. 4
Job Outlook	Pg. 4
Professional Organization	Pg. 4
Earnings	Pg. 5
Certification	Pg. 5
Admission Requirements	Pg. 6
Selection Process	Pg. 7
Student Admission Rank Form	Pg. 8
Criminal Background Check	Pg. 9
Background Investigation Procedure	Pg. 9
Background check review process	Pg. 10
College Practice for Review of Criminal Background checks	Pg. 10
Maintenance of Records & Confidentiality	Pg. 11
Other Considerations/Online Background check procedure	Pg. 11
Disclaimers	Pg. 11
Allocation of Cost	Pg. 12
Criminal Background checks & drug testing guidelines	Pg. 12
Clinical Entry Requirement	Pg. 12
Program Graduation Requirement	Pg. 13
Re-admission policy	Pg. 13
Clinical Experience/Clinical Instruction	Pg. 13
6 <sup>th</sup> core curriculum clinical case requirement	Pg. 14
Counting Cases/Cost and Financial Aid	Pg. 15
Tuition & Expenses	Pg. 16
Clinical Rotation Requirements	Pg. 17
Student Physical Exam form	Pg. 18
Associate Degree Plan	Pg. 19
Application for Admission	Pg. 20
Disclosure Form	Pg. 23
Latex Allergy Consent	Pg. 24
Authorization to release transcript	Pg. 25

## TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Surgical Technologist is a vital member of the Surgical Team. Surgical technologists also called surgical or operating room technologists, assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Before an operation, surgical technologists help set up the operating room with surgical instruments and equipment, and sterile solutions, they assemble, adjust, and check nonsterile equipment to ensure that all is working properly. Technologists also prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room and help position them on the operating table. Technologists also observe patients' vital signs and check charts. The technologist helps the surgical team don sterile gowns and gloves, and apply the sterile surgical "drapes" prior to the start of the surgical procedure.

During surgery, technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgeon assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Surgical technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and may help apply dressings. They may operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines, and help operate diagnostic equipment.

After an operation, surgical technologists may help transfer patients to the recovery room, and clean and restock the operating room.

**This program is a Hybrid program meaning that all didactic education is conducted through an online modality utilizing WebEx and supervised clinical/lab experience is provided through face to face instruction.** 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.

Surgical Technologists must possess manual dexterity to handle instruments efficiently and quickly. They also must be conscientious, orderly, and emotionally stable to handle the demands of the operating room environment. Technologists must respond quickly and have a full understanding of the procedures so that they may anticipate the needs of the surgeons without having to be asked for instruments or supplies. They are expected to keep abreast of new developments in the field.

Technologists advance by specializing in a particular area of surgery, such as orthopedics, neurosurgery or open heart surgery. They may also work as circulating technologists. A circulating technologist is the "unsterile" person during the procedure that interviews the patient before surgery, keeps a written account of the surgical procedure and answers the surgeon's questions about the patient during the surgery. With additional training, some technologists advance to first assistants, who help with retracting, sponging, suturing, cauterizing bleeders, and closing and treating wounds. Some surgical technologists manage central supply departments in hospitals or take positions with insurance companies, sterile supply services, and operating equipment firms.

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

**This Hybrid 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 in 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

No substance abuse

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.**

Aware of possible exposure to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.

### **American Disability Act notice**

“Texas State Technical College Harlingen will abide by the American Disability Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Because the duties of this program are vigorous, if you have a disability, Texas State Technical College Harlingen encourages you the applicant to disclose disability that may necessitate academic accommodations, policy modifications, and/or adaptive equipment that may allow you to participate on an equal basis the functions set forth by this program. Support Service Office is the indicated office in which applicants can disclose and obtain information regarding accommodations. Support Service Office is located in the Auxiliary Building and can also be contacted at (956) 364-4520/voice or (956) 364-4526/ TDD. Applicants are encouraged to self-disclose in a timely manner.”

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Most graduates are employed by hospitals, mainly in operating and delivery rooms. Others are employed in clinics, surgical centers, and in the office of physicians and dentists who perform outpatient surgery.

### **JOB OUTLOOK**

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than 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

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

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Visit the following websites to learn more about Surgical Technology:

Association of Surgical Technologists ([www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org))

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) ([www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org))

Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and surgical assisting ([www.arcstsa.org](http://www.arcstsa.org))

## **EARNINGS**

The median annual wage for surgical technologists was \$48,300 in May 2019.

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals full time. They spend much of their time on their feet. Surgical technologists employed in hospitals may work or be on call during nights, weekends, and holidays. They may also be required to work shifts lasting longer than 8 hours.

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.

## **CERTIFICATION**

Graduates from TSTC will take National Certifying Exam (CST) one month prior to graduation. If successful in passing the CST exam, they may then use the designation Certified Surgical Technologist, or CST. Continuing education or re-examination is required to maintain certification, which must be renewed every four years.

**Texas graduates must now be certified in order to get employment.**

The certification success rate for August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019 is 90%.

## **WORK ENVIRONMENT**

As a Surgical Technology student, you will be exposed to potentially infectious blood and body fluids. Texas State Technical College will not be held responsible for any injury sustained during clinical experiences.

Student will be required to purchase Accident and needle stick insurance thru TSTC. In addition, you are encouraged to purchase medical insurance.

I also understand that as a Surgical Technology student, I will be required to obtain the Hepatitis B vaccinations, Flu shot, MMR, Varicella, TB test, Tdap, Meningitis vaccine and any other vaccinations that are required by the clinical site.

The hospitals (clinical sites) have the right to conduct a random drug screen test when deemed necessary.

## Surgical Technology Program Admission Requirements

### Admission Requirements

1. Completion of all admission requirements to Texas State Technical College.
2. Submit official high school and college transcripts from previously attended schools to the Office of Admissions.
3. Applicants for admission to the college are required to take a placement test (i.e. TSI.) unless otherwise exempt. For information about exemptions or testing contact the Admissions and Records Office (956) 364-4319. Student who does not pass all sections of TSI will be required to remediate the sections not mastered.
4. Complete financial aid application. If you are applying for federal financial aid, complete the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) for the Pell Grant and other financial aid. Contact the financial aid office for more information on other grants, scholarships, student loans, or sponsoring agencies such as WIA, or DARS. Veterans should contact their local VA officer on campus.
5. Must meet with an **Enrollment Coach (956) 364-4932** in order to register for the academic course requirements. Advisor will guide the student through the TSI placement test results and general academic process to prepare the student for applying to the SRGT courses.
6. All SRT prospects will be classified as Biology majors until accepted into the SRT program.

### Steps to be a candidate for the ST Program (30 students admitted in the fall)

1. Must view the Surgical Technology Program Information Session on the Surgical Technology Webpage found on the Portal.
2. Must register with Esmeralda Reyes (956) 364-4636 (secretary) do a tour and observation at a local hospital.
3. **Application submissions will begin May 10, 2021 and will be submitted electronically through Dynamic forms. The application can be found on the TSTC Portal Page under the Surgical Technology Webpage (Program Requirements Link). Deadline for applications is June 18, 2021 at 3 pm. Application must have any external transcripts that are not currently in the TSTC system and immunization documentation record.**
4. Completion of the Surgical Technology Aptitude Test (TEAS). Dates will be set up by ST department. More information can be found at [www.atitesting.com/images](http://www.atitesting.com/images)
5. Completion of Criminal Background Check to be conducted by **Group One**. SRT department will send link. Prior and present felony convictions may restrict admission into the program, depending on the specific nature of the crime. Each circumstance will be reviewed on an individual basis. **The background check will be the responsibility of the student.**
6. Proof of hospital experience required in order to receive allotted points

### SRGT Class Entry Requirements

1. **Completion or in progress to complete academic courses before fall 2021 semester.**
2. Current immunization documentation. Hepatitis B series must be completed by first class day.
3. Proof of MMR x2 shots, Varicella x2 shots, (history of varicella not accepted) and Tdap, **Student will be responsible for getting their immunizations.** All immunizations must be validated by the medical facility.
4. Applicants must have a minimum of a 2.0 Grade Point Average.
5. **Must have a Social Security Number to obtain employment and admission into the program.**
6. 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.

### **Once accepted to program the following will be required:**

1. TB test (at health clinic or your health care provider) must be done one week prior to start of program. Results must be submitted to the Clinical Coordinator Marissa Gonzales.
2. Current physical examination from your health care provider. Physical forms will be submitted to Clinical Coordinator Marissa Gonzales.

3. Completion of all immunizations must be submitted by first class day.
4. Drug screen test (test fee \$ 35.00 est.), dates will be set up by ST department prior to start of SRGT courses. If student fails the drug screen test they will automatically be disqualified and not allowed into the SRGT courses.  
**Doctors Hospital of Renaissance may require a drug screen test prior to the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester clinical rotations.**
5. Current seasonal flu shot is required in order to attend clinical (must be taken during the month of October).  
When submitting your flu shot record, it must contain the following information: (Expiration Date, Manufacturer, and Lot Number).

### **Selection Process for Applicants**

1. The program director and Acceptance Committee will review all submitted applications to make sure all forms have been received, are properly completed, and minimum requirements met.
2. Students will be selected to enter SRGT 1405/1409/1460 based on the GPA, the results of the TEAS test, completion of required academic courses, completion of required immunizations, and completion of criminal background check. Students will be ranked accordingly and will be accepted into the program. (Admission rank form attached)
3. Students not accepted will be notified via email and can reapply for the next class
4. The admitted candidates will be notified of a meeting to complete class registration forms and other related forms.

**The Surgical Technology Program accepts 30 students per class.**

## STUDENT ADMISSION RANK FORM

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Criteria: \_\_\_\_\_

Aptitude Test Results: TEAS Composite %: \_\_\_\_\_

Composite%	Points Awarded
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(90)	05
(80)	04
(70)	03
(60)	02
(50)	01

Cumulative GPA	Points Awarded
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3.5-4.0	15
3.0-3.4	10
2.0-2.9	05

<b>Immunization Complete</b>	<b>*Incomplete (Immediate disqualification)</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
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Hepatitis B Series, MMR, Varicella	05
Background Check Complete/Clear*	05

Allied Health Experience	Points Awarded
Hospital tour/observation/reflection	05
Information session	05
Qualifying work experience (medical field) (maximum of 5 points)	—

<u><b>Post Secondary Education</b></u>	<u><b>Points Awarded</b></u>
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AAS/BA	
Qualifying Medical degree (maximum of 5 points)	—

**\*(Not to include SRGT courses)**

**Total Points Earned:**

**Accepted**

**Not Accepted**

**Alternate**



## **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

### **I. SCOPE & PURPOSE**

A comprehensive criminal background check will be performed on students prior to acceptance to the Surgical Technology Program. Background verifications are required for the primary purpose of safeguarding the well-being of patients, and to ascertain the students' eligibility to maintain program enrollment and to participate in clinical rotation experiences.

### **II. RATIONALE**

All students must consent, submit to, and satisfactorily complete a criminal background investigation as a condition of participation in clinical rotations in the Surgical Technology Program. Any positive findings may be subject to review by the clinical affiliates and could prevent the student from completing clinical requirements. All expenses associated with the CBC are the responsibility of the student. Students who do not consent to the required background check, who refuse to provide information necessary to conduct the background check, or who provide false or misleading information in regard to the background check will not be accepted into the program.

### **III. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE**

This procedure will be implemented, monitored, and enforced by the Program Director of the Surgical Technology Program.

#### **a. Criminal Background Check Procedure**

Program materials will include instructions for completing the on-line application process and a release/consent form that authorizes GroupOne (the vendor), on behalf of the Surgical Technology Program at TSTC, to conduct a comprehensive criminal background investigation on all prospective surgical technology students. Students who refuse to complete these inquiries, do not answer truthfully and completely, or refuse to consent to a criminal background check will not be allowed to enter the program. Information available/sought through background screening/investigation process. The following databases are examples of those that may be examined as part of the comprehensive criminal background check (CBC).

##### **i. County Criminal Research**

Specific inquiries into county court records for felony and misdemeanor charges requires hands on research of physical and digital courthouse records. These searches are performed at more than 3100 county criminal courts across the United States and still remain the most accurate form of criminal background checks available today.

##### **ii. Federal Criminal Research**

Because violations of federal law are not usually found in county records, GroupOne will search through federal records that can span statewide or nationally. Our research taps into the criminal and civil cases of 94 federal and judicial districts including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and three territories-the U.S Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands where federal and bankruptcy cases are heard.

##### **iii. Multi-State Criminal and Sex Offender Database Check**

To support county searches, GroupOne can perform multi-state investigations that scrape the criminal databases of several states at once.

##### **iv. Statewide Criminal Database Checks**

Many states maintain repositories of criminal information submitted by county courts and local law enforcement. GroupOne uses these sources to supplement county criminal research to produce a more comprehensive background.

v. Sex Offender Registry

Not all states maintain a registry of convicted sex offenders. GroupOne searches the National Sex Offender Public website to find the current address of convicted offenders registered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S Territories and U.S Native American Tribes.

b. Consideration of Criminal Background Activities

The existence of a felony conviction, alone, does not automatically disqualify a student from entering clinical rotation experience. Relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to: the date, nature, and number of convictions; the relationship the conviction bears to the duties and responsibilities of the position; and successful efforts toward rehabilitation. Any decision to allow a student to enter a clinical rotation with a conviction is solely at the discretion of the clinical affiliate.

c. Examination of Information Obtained Through Criminal Background Investigations

The criminal background check will include a record of all arrests, convictions, and dismissals. For the purposes of this policy, a conviction is considered to be a guilty plea, a guilty verdict, Alford Plea, or a Nolo Contendere (“No Contest”) plea. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all maiden names and aliases are reported and to ensure that any misinformation in the initial criminal background check report is corrected, and to ensure that a written statement with supporting documentation indicating the correction is submitted to the College. All positive findings will be reported, as required by clinical affiliation agreements, to each local hospital whose Human Resources department will review the initial criminal background check report results for all conditionally admitted students.

A positive report may affect Students’ progression in the program. Any student who disagrees with the accuracy of information found in the background investigation process should seek independent legal counsel in their efforts to obtain a clear report.

**IV. BACKGROUND CHECK REVIEW PROCESS**

The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will be responsible for reviewing all relevant materials related to any adverse background check report containing information that pertains to the student’s suitability for participation in clinical rotations.

A student with a positive background check may be asked to write a letter of explanation that may be sent to the human resources departments of the clinical affiliates along with the background check findings to assist in their fair review of the students’ screening results. Factors involved in the individual case review by the clinical affiliate may include, but not be limited to the:

- nature, circumstances, and frequency of any reported offense(s);
- length of time since the offense(s);
- available information that addresses efforts at rehabilitation;
- accuracy of the information provided by the applicant in their application materials; and
- the relationship between the duties to be performed as part of the educational program and the offense committed.

**V. COLLEGE PRACTICE FOR REVIEW OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

a. The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will report any positive student background check findings (in a non-identifying manner) to clinical affiliates as required by clinical affiliation agreements, to obtain an individual decision, determined on a case-by-case basis, as to the clinical facility’s consideration of the student’s eligibility for on-site rotations. If the Program Director receives a denial of entrance into clinical rotations based upon the student’s background check records, and is unable to successfully place the student in required clinical rotations, the student will be notified in writing that their enrollment in the program will not continue because of ineligibility for completion of clinical requirements of the program.

b. It is **NOT** the responsibility of the College or any member of the College to actively resolve any issue for the student. If the student has questions about the report, feels the report contains erroneous information, or includes other factors such as a guilty plea or conviction that has been expunged, the burden is on the student to resolve the issue(s). There is an appeal process available through the GroupOne web-site:

<https://gp1.com/consumer-info/>. The student may wish to contact a personal attorney to address the issues

with the appropriate legal authorities. If a resolution is reached, the student may provide the Program Director with an updated report following the procedures outlined previously.

## **VI. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Information obtained for the purpose of and during the criminal background check, will be retained by the Surgical Technology program separate from other student educational and academic records. Confidentiality will be maintained consistent with FERPA guidelines.

## **VII. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Applicants and/or admitted students must be aware that:**

- The expense for the background check must be borne by the student and will be paid directly to GroupOne. An individual criminal background check fee is \$49. Such costs are subject to change, and beyond the control of the Surgical Technology Program.
- At this time the NBSTSA, the National Board of Surgical Assisting, does not require a criminal background check to be eligible to take the National Certifying Exam.
- If a student fails to pass a criminal background check, he or she may be ineligible to participate in clinical courses, ineligible for program completion/graduation, and therefore ineligible to continue in the program.
- Students who are currently serving probation or parole are considered ineligible candidates for the program.
- \*Students with unresolved criminal charges or have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude (i.e. Murder, Voluntary Manslaughter, Felony hit and run, Family violence, kidnapping, Drug crimes, Kidnapping, Fraud, Theft, and Robbery) will be ineligible to enter the program.
- Texas State Technical College and the Surgical Technology Program do not accept responsibility for any student being ineligible to participate in clinical experience, owing to failure to pass a criminal background check.
- Students who provide any false information regarding criminal offenses in any documents may be subject to immediate dismissal from the program pending confirmation via a hearing body convened as provided in student disciplinary policy due process rights.
- Any student arrested while enrolled in the program must report that offense to the Program Director in writing within 5 days of arrest. Based on the nature of the offense a decision will be made by the Program Director to determine if the student is able to continue with clinical practice.

## **VIII. ON-LINE BACKGROUND CHECK APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **a. Background Check as Requirement of Clinical Affiliation Agreements**

These background checks will be conducted by one private vendor (GroupOne). Each student must complete the comprehensive criminal background check online through <https://gp1.com> by providing their personal information for the background check.

### **b. GroupOne**

GroupOne is a background check service that allows students to apply for their own background check. The results of a background check are posted to the group one.com website in a secure and tamper-proof environment. The Program Director is the only authorized person to view the results upon completion. Any negative findings will be shared with the student. The student can request a PDF copy of their background results from the program director. The results will be available in approximately 1-2 weeks.

### **Disclaimers**

Successful completion of a criminal background check does not ensure future employment. Clinical agencies can establish more stringent standards, if they so desire, to meet regulatory requirements for their facility. Clinical agencies can conduct additional background checks and drug testing at their discretion. If a student is found to be ineligible for clinical placement any time during the program, the student is unable to meet clinical learning objectives and will be withdrawn pending resolution of the situation.

DWI-Multiple offenses could affect ability to obtain or retain employment in a health care setting. The student has the right to challenge reported discrepancies upon review, however the student must request in writing to Surgical Technology program in order to review completed background report and to verify discrepancies. The student must be cleared of all discrepancies one week prior to the commencement of the program of study in order to be eligible for class admittance.

### **Allocation of Cost**

Cost of the criminal background check and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student:  
Completion of Criminal Background Check to be conducted **by Group one. The cost will be \$45.00**

**For additional questions, please contact:**  
**Anna San Pedro CST, MCJ (alsanpedro@tstc.edu)**  
**Program Director**  
**Surgical Technology Program**  
**Texas State Technical College**  
**956-364-4810**

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DRUG TESTING GUIDELINES**

1. Health students entering any of the Valley Area Hospitals must meet the Community Standards criteria to participate in clinical.
2. The criminal background check is performed **by Group One**. Students must have a viable email address. A link will be emailed so that students can complete the process. You will have 7 days to complete once link is sent to you
3. All student reports will be submitted to the Surgical Technology program Department.
4. 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 clinical training. Doctor Hospital at Renaissance is the only hospital that requires a hard copy of the background check.
5. 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.
6. Students wishing to appeal the decision regarding the background check are eligible to use the normal academic appeal procedure. The student must submit a written request to the Surgical Technology Department.
7. Any student found to have illegal or unauthorized 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 SRGT 1461 or SRGT 2462.**

### **Clinical Entry Requirements:**

1. Current physical examination with all of the required immunizations.
2. The student must purchase liability insurance, accident insurance and needle stick insurance by the first week of class. **Medical insurance is the responsibility of student**
3. The student must complete and obtain a passing grade in a CPR class during the month of September.
4. The student must purchase all required uniforms and supplies to attend hospital rotations.
5. The student must have completed the Hepatitis B series, proof of MMR/ Varicella two shot series, Tdap, and TB test.
6. Immunizations must be updated with personal physician.
7. Students are required to have the **Flu vaccine** during the fall semester.

### **Clinical requirements must be complete to participate in a clinical internship.**

**Note:** Applicants should be aware that meeting all the Surgical Technology criteria, achieving passing grades throughout the curriculum, and completing the entire curriculum does not guarantee employment in the Surgical Technology field.

The State of Texas now requires the Certified Surgical Technologist credential in order to gain employment.

### **Surgical Technology Program Graduation Requirements**

All SRGT courses described in the SRT degree plan must attain a 78% passing grade.

All graduates of a CAAHEP accredited program must take the CST exam.

Certifying exam (CST) will be administered by NBSTSA 30 days prior to graduation. The program must have a 70% pass rate on all students taking the national exam in order to comply with accreditation standards.

Completion of clinical case requirements as stated on the core curriculum.

### **Surgical Technology Program Re-Admission Policy**

1. Students must complete and submit a readmission application to the Program Director to be considered for re-admission.
2. This application must be submitted at least three (3) months in advance of the program date. If the student is reapplying for the **fall semester it should be turned in by May 1st, for the spring semester by October 1st and for the summer by February 1st.**
3. If a student is not successful after being readmitted into the program, a two (2) year waiting period will be required before he/she may reapply.
4. Any student re-applying for the Surgical Technology Program must have a **2.0 GPA.**
5. Students who have been out more than one year will have to show clinical competency in the following skills in order to gain acceptance into the program: **Hand scrub, Gowning and Gloving, Laparotomy Set-up. In additional they must pass a comprehensive exam in SRGT 1405 and 1409 with a 78% or better to be accepted back into the program.**

### **Clinical Experience**

The student will continue with theory classes and will participate in clinical experience at various area hospitals. Presently, the Surgical Technology (ST.) Program is affiliated with many different entities such as hospitals, surgery centers and eye clinics. Any concerns regarding the attendance of a clinical site must be addressed to the clinical instructor and program director prior to clinical rotation changes. Students will be evaluated by a clinical instructor randomly throughout the semester. Supervision is given by the affiliated hospital personnel, preceptors and management. Clinical instructors will receive a weekly report on the student's performance. **Students are not paid for the learning experiences.**

- No visible Tattoos or body piercing are allowed: all visible tattoos must be covered during clinical experiences. Visible Body piercing will not be allowed in the clinical setting
- Students are required to have their own transportation for clinical rotation. The clinical rotation placement can be from Mission, Texas to Brownsville, Texas, and point's in-between.
- 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.

### **Clinical Instruction**

Clinical Instruction is conducted in cooperation with the surgical departments of area hospitals. The technical and clinical instruction will be conducted by the clinical instructor and each area hospital preceptor

representative. **Students rotate through various Valley hospitals and clinics allowing them to receive hands-on training in a variety of settings. Hospitals are located throughout the valley from Misson, TX to Brownsville, TX and points in between.**

During the **1<sup>st</sup> semester** (SRGT 1460) the students will practice their entry level skills in the TSTC Surgical Technology lab and attend clinical at VBMC-H and HMC to continue the mastery of skills. The scheduled time will change once the students begin their clinical internship, from 8 am-5 pm to 6:15 a.m. to 3:00 pm.

During the first week of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester** (SRGT 1461), students will rotate through Valley Baptist Medical Center and Harlingen Medical Center Surgical Suite from 6:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

After the first week they will be assigned to a three week rotating schedule to continue training, in area hospitals. **Students will be responsible for their own transportation to and from TSTC and the clinical facilities.** Accommodations will only be made under special circumstances approved by the Program Director.

**3<sup>rd</sup> semester (SRGT 2462) students will continue same as 2<sup>nd</sup> semester rotation. During this semester clinical times will be from 6:15 to 4:30 pm.**

### SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY 6<sup>th</sup> CORE CURRICULUM CLINICAL CASE REQUIREMENTS

Surgical Specialty	Total # of Cases Required	Minimum # of First Scrub Cases Required	Maximum # of Second Scrub Cases That Can Be Applied Towards 120 Cases
General Surgery	30	20	10
Surgical Specialties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiothoracic</li> <li>• ENT</li> <li>• Ophthalmic</li> <li>• GU</li> <li>• Neuro</li> <li>• Ob/Gyn</li> <li>• Oral/Maxillofacial</li> <li>• Orthopedics</li> <li>• Peripheral Vascular</li> <li>• Plastics</li> <li>• Procurement/Transplant</li> </ul>	90	60	30
Diagnostic Endoscopy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronchoscopy</li> <li>• Colonoscopy</li> <li>• Cystoscopy</li> <li>• EGD</li> <li>• ERCP</li> <li>• Esophagoscopy</li> <li>• Laryngoscopy</li> <li>• Pandenoscopy</li> <li>• Sinoscopy</li> <li>• Ureteroscopy</li> </ul>			10 diagnostic endoscopy cases may be applied toward the second scrub cases.

Labor and Delivery			5 vaginal delivery cases may be applied toward the second scrub cases.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>

1. The total number of cases the student must complete is 120. This is the minimum number of cases.
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 and evenly distributed between a minimum of 5 surgical specialties however, 15 is the maximum number of cases that can be counted in any one surgical specialty.
4. 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 towards the maximum number of Second Scrub Role cases.
5. Observation cases must be documented, but do not count towards the 120 required cases.

**6. 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 the repair of LeFort I is oral-maxillofacial surgical specialty. Patient required 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.

**Cost and Financial Aid**

The actual cost of attending Texas State Technical College includes tuition and fees, book and tools, in addition to the cost of transportation and/or campus housing. Tuition and fees are based on the number of credit hours taken and whether in or out-of-state tuition is paid. Most students take from 8 to 12 credit hours per semester.

Submitting the financial aid application is as important as the application for admission. Any questions regarding financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office at (956) 364-4337.

**\*Tuition and Expenses**

Approximate cost (tuition & fees including Lab fees) of entire program.....\*\$12,445.00  
 (Tuition is calculated according to credit hours. Please refer to Texas State Technical College tuition scale).  
 Surgical Technology Uniforms X 2.....\*\$150.00  
 Trajecys.....\$100.00  
 Approximate cost for all textbooks .....\$800.00  
 Accident Insurance.....\$53.00  
 Needle stick Insurance.....\$23.00  
 Hepatitis B Vaccine.....\*\$91.47  
 Liability Insurance.....\*\$20.00  
 Lab Coat (knee length).....\*\$25.00  
 AST Membership, CST Exam Eligibility Fee,.....\*\$250.00  
 TEAS EXAM (\$25.00 paid to cashier and \$65.00 paid with credit card at time of test) .....\$90.00  
 Criminal Background Check.....\$50.00  
 Drug Screen Test.....\$50.00  
 Physical Exam.....See your physician  
 Immunization required - Tdap, MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis B, PPD (TB Test) and Flu shot.....See your physician  
**(Student must keep required immunizations current)**

**\*Estimates only - prices may vary from semester to semester**

**Student Activities**

Student Government Association, S.T. Student Club, Techsan Day, intramural sports, etc.

**Other Services**

The following services are available:

Student Housing .....	364-4236
Financial Aid .....	364-4337
WIA .....	364-4532
Counseling .....	364-4311
Tutoring .....	364-4170

**INSTRUCTORS**

Anna San Pedro CST, MCJ , Program Director (956-364-4810)  
 Yolanda Ramirez CST, AAS, BAT, Instructor (956-364-4808)  
 Marissa Ramirez CST, Clinical Coordinator (956-364-4704)

**SECRETARY**

Esmeralda Reyes, 956-364-4636

**Surgical Technology Program  
 Texas State Technical College  
 Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. Health Science Building  
 1902 North Loop 499  
 Harlingen, Texas 78550-3697**

**Please start processing admission requirements and financial aid early.**



### Check list for Clinical Rotation Requirements

Student requirements have been established with affiliated hospitals that request for all students attending clinical to be in accordance with hospital policy. It is mandatory for all students to comply with the Surgical Technology Programs clinical requirements. The clinical requirements are as follows:

<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Where:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>
<b>Immunizations MMR, Varicella, Tdap</b>	Private Physician	Depending on physician
<b>Hepatitis B Vaccine</b>	Private Physician	Depending on Physician
<b>Needle stick Insurance</b>	TSTC Business Service	TSTC fee
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	TSTC Business Services	TSTC fee
<b>Accident Insurance</b>	TSTC Business Services	TSTC fee
<i>Physical Exam</i>	Private Physician	Depending on Physician
<b>TB test/ Chest X ray</b>	Private Physician	Depending on Physician
<b>Drug Screen test</b>	Health Clinic	Estimated fee \$35.00
<b>Uniforms</b>	TSTC book store	Estimate \$110.42 for Two sets, Two sets are minimum requirement.
<b>Flu Shot</b>	Health clinic	Depending on Physician



**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM  
STUDENT PHYSICAL EXAM FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F D.O.B: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL HISTORY**

**Do you suffer or are you being treated for any of this health conditions?**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
A. Head injuries, seizures, unconsciousness, concussion or convulsion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Neck or Back Injury	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Contact Lens/Glasses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Heart Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Rheumatic Fever	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Eye, Lung, or Kidney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Hepatitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Sickle Cell Anemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Cancer/Blood Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. Hernia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N. Skin Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O. Bone or Joint Disease or injury	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P. Emotional or Psychological Disturbances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q. Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R. Surgeries (operations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S. Drugs or Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain any "Yes" Answers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>PHYSICAL</b>
Allergies: _____
Medications: _____
Height: _____ Weight: _____
VS: Temp. _____ P. _____ R. _____ BP: _____
Eye _____ Ear: _____ Nose. _____ Dental: _____
Throat: _____ Lung: _____ Heart: _____
Abdomen _____ Hernia: _____ Skin: _____
Remarks and Recommendations: _____
_____
_____

**I certify that I have examined this individual and find that he/she is physically suitable for Surgical Technology Program except for \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed or Typed Name of Physician or Nurse Practitioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Exam**

Surgical Technology –AAS  
Degree Plan

ACADEMIC COURSES:		Lec	Lab	Ext	Cont.	SCH	Grade
<b>Semester 1</b>							
BIOL 2301	Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec)	3	0		48	3	
BIOL 2101	Anatomy & Physiology I (Lab)	0	3		48	1	
HITT 1305	Medical Terminology	2	4		96	3	
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3	0		48	3	
Total		8	7		240	10	
<b>Semester 2</b>							
BIOL 2302	Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec)	3	0		48	3	
BIOL 2102	Anatomy & Physiology II (Lab)	0	3		48	1	
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3	0		48	3	
SPCH X3XX	Speech Elective	3	0		48	3	
Totals		9	3		192	10	
<b>Semester 3</b>							
BIOL 2320	Microbiology (Lec) Non-Science Major	3	0		48	3	
BIOL 2120	Microbiology (Lab) Non-Science Major	0	3		48	1	
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3	0		48	3	
Humanities	Fine Arts Elective	3	0		48	3	
Totals		9	3		192	10	
<b>Semester 4</b>							
SRGT 1405	Introduction to Surgical Technology	3	2		80	4	
SRGT 1409	Fundamentals of Perioperative	3	2		80	4	
SRGT 1460	Clinical I-Surgical Operating Room Tech	0	0	16	256	4	
Totals		6	4	16	416	12	
<b>Semester 5</b>							
SRGT 1244	Technological Science	2	0		32	2	
SRGT 1441	Surgical Procedures I	3	3		96	4	
SRGT 1461	Clinical/Surgical II	0	0	24	384	4	
Totals		5	3	24	512	10	
<b>Semester 6</b>							
SRGT 1442	Surgical Procedures II	3	3		96	4	
SRGT 2462	Clinical III-Surgical/Operating Room Tech	0	0	24	384	4	
End of Semester GPA _____		3	3	24	480	8	
AAS degree total credits		40	23	64	2032	60	



**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Date:

<b>Email:</b>		<b>TSTC ID:</b>		<b>Social Security:</b>	
<b>Last Name:</b>		<b>First Name:</b>		<b>Middle Name:</b>	
<b>Street Address:</b>		<b>P.O. Box:</b>		<b>Phone: (Cell)</b>	
<b>City:</b>		<b>County:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Have you been accepted for admission to Texas State Technical College?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:</b>					
<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>NAME OF SCHOOL</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>HOURS/CREDIT COMPLETED</b>	<b>DEGREE/CERTIFICATE</b>
High School					
G.E.D.					
College					
Vocational Training					
<b>EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:</b>					
<b>EMPLOYER</b>		<b>POSITION HELD</b>		<b>CITY/STATE</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL RECORD:</b> <i>List any physical or medical conditions that <u>may need proper observation to prevent accidents or injuries to you. If accepted in the Surgical Technology Program you will be required to submit a complete physical exam, including a drug screen test.</u></i>					
<b>Do you hereby authorize your Doctor(s) to release record to this school and clinical site?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>Are you planning to apply for Financial Aid?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If yes, have you contacted and applied with Financial Aid Office located at the Student Services Building?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>Have you even been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If yes explain:</b>					
<b>I authorize the ST department to obtain an official copy of my transcript needed for CST certification.</b> ____ Yes ____ No					

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

I understand that the Admissions Committee will not regard this application as “complete” until all supporting documentation has been received; therefore, it is to my interest to see that these are submitted as promptly as possible. It is also my understanding that official transcripts sent directly from each school I have attended must be received by the Admissions Office as soon as possible at the end of each successive semester for as long as my application is being considered.

**I also understand that as a Surgical Technology student, I will be exposed to blood and body fluids. Texas State Technical College will not be held responsible for any injury sustained during clinical experiences. As a student, I am required to carry my own medical and accident insurance plus Needle Stick insurance. Proof of insurance, immunizations, and physical exam must be kept on file in the Surgical Technology Department and forwarded to the hospitals upon request. In addition, I also understand that as a Surgical Technology student, I will be required to obtain the Hepatitis B vaccinations, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, TB test, and Flu shot plus any other vaccinations that are required by the clinical site. Meningitis vaccine is required by TSTC when enrolling if under the age of 22.**

**The hospitals (clinical sites) have the right to approve or disapprove my application for clinical experience and may conduct a Drug Screen Test when deemed necessary. Hospitals reserve the right to refuse clinical privileges to any student.**

I further understand that the information submitted herein will be relied upon by officials of Texas State Technical College to determine my status for admission. I certify that the information in this application is complete and understand that the submission of false information is grounds for rejection of my application, withdrawal of any offer of acceptance, cancellation of enrollment, or appropriate disciplinary action.

<b>Applicant’s Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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**This completed application form must be submitted to: Texas State Technical College  
Surgical Technology Program  
Eddie Lucio Building  
1902 North Loop 499  
Harlingen TX 78550-3697**

**Affirmative Action Statement**

**“Every opportunity shall be afforded for admission, employment or educational services regarding of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. This publication is available in alternate format by contacting the TSTC Support Service Office at 964-364-4520.**

**Surgical Technology Program  
Application for Admission**

**1. Write a short paragraph describing your present knowledge of the operating room.**


**2. Write a short paragraph stating why you want to become a surgical technologist.**

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**3. What are your long range career goals?**

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**4. In your own words, explain what you presently know about a patient undergoing surgery.**


--

**5. If you plan to work, how many hours per week do you expect to work while enrolled in the ST Program?**

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**6. What family and/or child care commitments, if any, will you have during your enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program?**

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**7. What three (3) courses (high school/college) that were most challenging?**

(1)
(2)
(3)

**8. How did you find out about the Surgical Technology Program?**

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**You may utilize the back of this page to answer your questions.**

**Allied Health Division  
Surgical Technology**



**Program**

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission or expulsion from the College. I understand that the information contained in this application will be read by the faculty and staff of TSTC Surgical Technology program.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date



**Allied Health Division  
Surgical Technology Program**

**(Applies if you have latex allergy)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that **I have a latex sensitivity or allergy**, acknowledge that I have received educational materials and understand that I will be placing myself in environments that may not be completely latex free and that I may be exposed to latex products. I assume all responsibility to avoid latex products and agree that I will not hold Texas State Technical College responsible for my avoidance of any latex products, or injury that may result from contact with any latex products.





**Allied Health Division  
Surgical Technology Program**

**School Year 2020 to 2021**

I hereby grant authorization to Texas State Technical College to release my educational records that may include my official academic transcripts to the Surgical Technology program and The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). This information is to be utilized for the certification process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date