



Inside an operating room, there is little margin for error. Everything must be precise and well-planned. It's the job of the Surgical Technologist to make sure all equipment and instruments are right where they should be and readily available.

Known as scrubs or surgical operating technicians, Surgical Technologists work under the direction of doctors and nurses in a team environment.

**Their responsibilities include:**

- ▶ Setting up surgical instruments, sterile drapes, equipment, and solutions
- ▶ Assembling and checking equipment
- ▶ Positioning and draping patients on the operating table
- ▶ Operating lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment used during procedures
- ▶ Holding and passing instruments and sterile supplies to surgeons
- ▶ Holding retractors, cutting sutures and counting sponges, needles and supplies



**Outcomes**

Students who graduate from the Surgical Technology program will be equipped with the knowledge and skill to assist with basic and advanced surgical procedures. This knowledge will prepare students to perform in the major operating rooms, minor surgery, surgical centers, and surgeon's offices. Specific program objectives are designed to enable graduates to:

- ▶ Possess entry level knowledge of surgical technology and its place in the modern healthcare delivery system.
- ▶ Understand basic surgical anatomy and physiology in the operating room.
- ▶ Know the names and uses of all basic and advanced surgical instrumentation.
- ▶ Understand and utilize aseptic technique and sterile barriers.
- ▶ Discuss and know the flow of a surgical procedure from start to finish.
- ▶ Assure that there are accurate counts of all materials and instruments used in any surgical procedure.
- ▶ Demonstrate—surgical consciousness.

**Possible Career Track**

- ▶ Hospital operating and delivery rooms
- ▶ Ambulatory surgical centers
- ▶ Dentists and doctors' offices
- ▶ Outpatient care centers

\*The information in this section comes from "Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2013-2014 Edition"