



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

3820 Sen. Bennett Johnston Ave.
P.O. Box 16950
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70616
800-256-0483
337-491-2698
Fax 337-491-2135
www.sowela.edu

The mission of the Surgical Technology program is to provide a learning environment and experiences in both didactic and clinical training that reflects occupational trends and meets the needs of the region. The profession of surgical technology is service oriented and requires trained, disciplined personnel. The high quality, selective admission, affordable training is designed to allow students to acquire competent knowledge of the skills to render them competitive in the area healthcare job market. The curriculum encourages the student to be self-directed in learning both during training and after completion.

It is also our belief that the synergistic approach to surgical patient care is vital to the patient’s safety, human dignity, individual uniqueness, physical, emotional, and spiritual well- being. The surgical technologist’s commitment to excellence, as well as expertise, knowledge, and clinical judgment must be of the utmost consideration in the performance of related duties. The surgical technologist must be flexible, alert, and prepared to meet the needs of the profession. Personal continuing education will keep the surgical technologist abreast of the changes and technological advancements of their profession as well as to develop new skills.

Surgical Technologists have an obligation to practice their profession safely and to protect their patients from harm. We will assist surgical technology students to acquire a solid foundation of basic information on which further depth and breadth of knowledge can be added.

The technical standards discussed in the following chart define performance expectations that should be met for advancement through and successful completion of the **Surgical Technology Program**. These standards are not intended to discourage individuals from considering the Surgical Technology program, but to provide an overview so that individuals can make a well-informed decision regarding their academic pursuits. It is the policy of SOWELA Technical Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities, health impairments, and other conditions. Individuals that would like to pursue a degree in this program and believe they may need accommodations are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Disability Services at (337) 421 – 6576 or ods@sowela.edu.

ABILITY	STANDARD	Some examples of necessary activities (not all inclusive)
Physical Demands / Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must have the individual ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of your hands, arms and legs and moving your whole body. This will include Extent Flexibility, Finger Dexterity, Manual Dexterity, Arm-Hand Steadiness, Trunk Strength, and Control Precision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a full-range of body motion including handling and lifting patients; bend, reach, pull, push, stoop, and walk during shift; stand for long period of time in one location with minimum/no breaks. • Lift and carry a minimum of twenty (20) but up to sixty (60) pounds (considerable physical strength and effort may be required perform daily job requirements). • Responsible for preparing and applying sterile dressings following the procedure and may assist in the application of nonsterile dressings, including plaster or

		<p>synthetic casting materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have the ability to lift or pull 45-50 lbs. of weight, push less than 200 lbs. of weight, or push with assist greater than 200 lbs. of weight. • May hold retractors or instruments, sponge or suction the operative site, or cut suture material as directed by the surgeon. • Employ manual hand and finger dexterity while working, for example, with microscopic pieces of equipment and sutures (finer than a human hair), or while holding retractors • Perform fine motor skills; manipulate equipment and instruments; eye hand coordination. • Distinguish left from right. • Perform manual activities free from tremors and/or jerking motions to safely load/unload and pass instruments or sharps without causing injury to themselves, team members, or the patient. • Perform CPR.
<p>Critical Thinking/ Observation/ Sensory/ Reasoning Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be able to use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems. • Must be able to be attentive in the classroom, observe demonstrations and participate in lab classes. • Must have visual, auditory and olfactory perception. • Must be able to problem solve and diagnose including obtaining, interpreting, and documenting data. • Must be able to recognize when there is a problem or possible problem. • Make themselves aware of their surroundings by using their senses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate problem solving skills. • Demonstrate visual acuity (with correction if needed) within normal range (minimum of 6 feet) including peripheral vision and reading of fine print. • Have the ability to judge distance as well as special relationships and distinguish and identify different colors. • Work in dim to minimal lighting environments with accuracy. • Auditory acuity (with correction if needed) that includes hearing voices and speech which may be impeded by PPEs and extraneous environmental background noise. • Possess the ability to learn quickly and retain information without repetition of instructions. • Adapt to irregular working hours while maintaining alertness • Respond quickly and in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations • Be able to problem solve using

		<p>conceptual, integrative and quantitative reasoning skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrate and pay attention to detail. • Recall previously learned material from prerequisite or concurrent courses and apply it to the daily practice. • Develop a sound foundational surgical conscience and understanding of aseptic technique. • Immediately respond in situations involving agitated patients or those emerging from anesthesia who may be physically or verbally combative. • Must anticipate the needs of surgeons, passing instruments and providing sterile items in an efficient manner for the surgery to proceed smoothly. • They share with the circulator the responsibility of accounting for sponges, needles, and instruments before, during and after surgery.
<p>Behavioral / Social Skills and Professionalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must conduct self in a professional manner. • Must exhibit cultural/religious awareness and sensitivity in interactions with patients, colleagues, and supervisors. • Must be able to adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension. • Develop and improve skills in organization, prioritization, and time management methods. • Develop a professional character, including appearance and mature behavior to become an employable individual to provide the community with viable members of a workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have face-to-face discussions with individuals in work areas. Have good personal hygiene, professional conduct and appearance. • Be willing to work with others building team skills. • Demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation. • Maintain client confidentiality. • Be an honest and ethical worker. Be pleasant with others and display a good-natured, cooperative attitude. • Be careful about detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks. • Be able to withstand unusual sights/odors while remaining professional and performing job duties. • Display emotional stability with the ability to handle stress, tolerate inconsistencies, and maintain a positive and professional attitude. • Exhibit accountability and responsibility in all actions and subsequent consequences or accolades.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit an increased awareness of civic values by putting others first and acknowledging individual differences while striving for equality and fairness with concern for those most in need.
Communication Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must be able to communicate not only in speech but reading and writing in English. Must be sensitive to multicultural and multilingual needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use English language proficiently to communicate with individuals of all professions and social levels. Communicate in a rational and coherent manner both orally and in writing. Able to read and write in English.
Working Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have the ability to work in various environments. Must meet work environment criteria at time of employment. Surgical technologist have the primary responsibility for maintaining the sterile field, being constantly vigilant that all members of the team adhere to aseptic technique. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be free from any blood borne infections that may risk transmission to the patient, OR staff or peers. Recognize that work environment will include exposure to blood borne pathogens, diseases and toxic or caustic substances (sterility agents, fumes, development of latex allergy). Wear full surgical attire for extended periods of time including all mandatory personal protective equipment. Withstand unusual sights/ odors and while remaining professional and performing job duties. Adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension to ensure patient safety. Prepare the operating room by selecting and opening sterile supplies. Preoperative duties include assembling, adjusting, and checking nonsterile equipment to ensure that it is in proper working order. Duties also include operating sterilizers, lights, suction machines, electrosurgical units and diagnostic equipment. Properly position the patient on operating table, assist in connecting and applying surgical equipment and/or monitoring devices and prepare the incision site. Function as the sterile member of the surgical team who passes instruments,

		<p>sutures, and sponges during surgery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After scrubbing they don sterile gown and gloves and prepare the sterile setup for the appropriate procedure. • After other members of the sterile team have scrubbed, they assist them with gowning and gloving and with the application of sterile drapes that isolate the operative site. • Connect drains and tubing and receive and prepare specimens for subsequent pathologic analysis. • After surgery, they prepare the operating room for the next patient.
--	--	--

It is essential for students to perform these activities in the clinical portion of the program with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who have chronic illnesses or conditions must be managed and maintained on a current treatment plan and be able to function during a clinical day without impairment. Students are not required to disclose any chronic or recurrent illness and/or disability. Students who identify potential difficulties or may not have the ability to meet these standards or perform these skills, should contact the Sterile Processing program instructor, and communicate their concerns.

Should the concern be related to a documented disability, students are responsible to contact the College ADA Service officer to complete the necessary paperwork required. Determination of reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be made on an individual basis in the Sterile Processing department in consultation with the ADA officer. A list of services and facilities are available for students with disabilities can be found on the SOWELA website at:

<https://www.sowela.edu/student-life/student-services/disability-services/>

SOWELA Technical Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title: Compliance Office
Address: 3820 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave, Lake Charles, LA 70616
Telephone No: 337-421-6565 or 800-256-0483
Email: complianceofficer@sowela.edu

