

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following requirements for the Surgical Technology Program at Ozarks Technical Community College parallel the essential functions, or task based criteria that employers define and expect of surgical technologists.

INTELLECT

The surgical technology student must:

- Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis, anticipation, self-expression, and critical thinking.
- Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations, including breaks in sterile technique.
- Accurately calculate medication doses and correctly prepare medications for administration.

BEHAVIOR

The surgical technology student must:

- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment. Implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty, emergency demands, and a distracting environment.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change.
- Adapt to working with unpleasant odors and potentially harmful circumstances, taking care to protect patient, self and others.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and other health care professionals.
- Be honest, caring, compassionate, ethical, and responsible. The student must be forthright about error or uncertainty. In regard to sterility: When in doubt, throw it out!
- Critically evaluate own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve practice.

SENSORY SKILLS

The surgical technology student must:

- Possess sufficient auditory ability to monitor and assess health needs and to hear patients, other healthcare professionals, monitor alarms, and emergency signals.
- Possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in healthcare, including observation of patient responses, identification of surgical instruments, secretions, color, read manometer, charts, computer screen, digital printouts, labels, gauges, and syringes.
- Possess olfactory senses sufficient for maintaining environmental and patient safety.
- Possess sufficient tactile ability for physical assessment and interventions, including threading of surgical needles, loading of needle holders, handing of instruments, and insertion of catheters.

MOVEMENT

The surgical technology student must:

- Possess full range of motion, manual and finger dexterity, and hand-eye coordination sufficient to provide safe and effective care to patients, including administration of CPR procedures.
- Move freely and safely about the entire operative environment and maneuver in small spaces.
- Reach shelves for supplies; transfer and transport patients and equipment.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged standing over several hours.

COMMUNICATION

The surgical technology student must:

- Possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials, including textbooks, magazine and journal articles, handbooks, and instruction manuals.
- Follow instructions in order to correctly and independently perform duties of a surgical technologist; function as part of a team.
- Effectively, confidentially, sensitively and reassuringly converse with patients regarding surgical procedures.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals verbally and/or in a recorded format such as writing, typing, graphics, or telecommunication.
- Independently prepare papers and reports, and take paper, computer, and laboratory practical examinations.