



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM

Program Description

The Surgical Technology degree program is a specialized training program that provides students with the knowledge and skills to become competent surgical technologists in the modern surgical technology profession. The goal is to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. A clinical rotation at a hospital is a vital part of the education experience.

Graduates are prepared to function as an integral part of the team of medical practitioners that provide surgical care to patients in a variety of settings. They work under medical supervision to facilitate safe and effective surgical procedures. Duties of the surgical technologist may be performed in operating rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, central supply, labor and delivery area, cardiac catheterization laboratories, private physicians' offices, organ procurement organizations, and other areas where invasive procedures are performed.

Surgical Technology FAQ's

Is the Surgical Technology program offered day and/or night?

The Surgical Technology program is only offered during the day and for full-time hours.

Where are the Surgical Technology classes held?

All our didactic classes are at GPTC's Clarkston campus.

How long is the program?

Prerequisite educational and core courses may take a year or longer depending on classes needed and student course load choices. Following completion of prerequisite courses and acceptance into the program, the Surgical Technology program is three to four consecutive semesters, about 12 to 16 months.

How many students are accepted in each class?

Each cohort of Surgical Technology students is approximately 10. The Surgical Technology program ties the admission numbers/class size to the appropriate available clinical sites. Admission into the program is based on GPA. Since the sets are limited, this is a competitive program.

Is there any entrance exam such as the TEAS and/or HESI?

No. Our admissions process is based mainly on overall GPA.

Can I finish my college pre-requisites in the semester my application is considered?

Yes, the Surgical Technology program will still consider candidates who are finishing their last pre-requisites. However, students who are completed by the application deadline (November 15th for Spring admission) will be considered first.

Are criminal background checks and drug screenings program requirements?

Yes. Students accepted into the program will receive information regarding the drug screening and criminal background process.

How demanding is the program, days and hours required?

Surgical Technology courses vary by semester. First semester courses are held from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. due to lecture and demonstration labs along with practice labs. In the preceding semesters, students will be in clinical from 6:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. three to four days a week, and in class from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. one to two days a week.

Where would I be doing my clinical externship?

Surgical Technology students may be assigned to any of the clinical sites utilized by the program and may NOT request assignment to a particular site for any reason. Consideration for placement is dependent on many factors at the discretion of the clinical director.

Is there a dress code in the Surgical Technology program?

Yes, Surgical Technology students represent themselves, the Surgical Technology profession and GPTC at all times. Surgical Technology students will meet the dress code as is laid out in the student handbook. The Surgical Technology student is required to comply with the dress code for all class, clinical and campus events.

Is there an accelerated program if I have higher degree (e.g., Bachelor's degree)?

No. All applicants must complete all prerequisites as stated. No exception or advance placement is made for those with advanced education regardless of the type of degree.

Would it be possible to work while in the Surgical Technology program?

The amount of time a Surgical Technology student must spend in study, practice and attending clinical rotations is significant. The Surgical Technology program cannot make accommodations for a student's work schedule. Most Surgical Technology students find it difficult to maintain passing grades in their Surgical Technology courses and work at the same time, but it can be done if one is determined and organized. Please note that Georgia Piedmont offers free tutoring services and other resources that can help ensure success.

Is the Surgical Technology program accredited at GPTC?

The Surgical Technology program at GPTC is currently seeking its accreditation. The program must complete one cohort prior to being considered for accreditation.

Once I finish will be able to take the certification exam?

Yes. GPTC Surgical Technology graduates are required to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam as a requirement for graduation. *During the first year, graduates will sit for a secured program assessment exam until accreditation is granted. Once accreditation is received, these students will be eligible to sit for the CST exam from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).*

What are the occupational and salary outlooks for a Surgical Technologist?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 5 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations.

The median annual wage for surgical technologists was \$60,610 in May 2023.