**Surgical Technology—Certification Information**

**UPDATED: 1/7/2022**

As a part of the [SLCC Surgical Technology](http://www.slcc.edu/surgicaltech/index.aspx) program students prepare to take the National Board of Surgical Technology (NBSTSA) certification examination. The SLCC Surgical Technology program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](https://www.caahep.org/) (CAAHEP). Information about the SLCC Surgical Technology outcome assessment and exam results are available [here](http://www.slcc.edu/surgicaltech/accreditation/program-assessment-exam-results.aspx).

Some states have laws related to certification for surgical technologists.

This document represents a good faith effort to describe the state requirements for surgical technologists, for those states that have requirements in place. Please recognize that there may be additional requirements for licensure not outlined in this document, including fingerprinting or criminal background check requirements. Registration and licensure requirements can change at any time.

If you have difficulty finding the licensure requirements for your state, please contact your academic advisor or SLCC’s [state authorization coordinator](mailto:StateAuthorizationCoordinator@slcc.edu?subject=Licensure%20Question) for help.

**Helpful Links**

[Association of Surgical Technologist—Legislative Overview](https://www.ast.org/Public_Policy/Legislative_Overview/)

[Surgical Tech EDU](https://surgicaltechedu.org/)

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| **States and Territories** | **Does the SLCC Surgical Technology program meet degree requirements in this state?**  This list was last updated 1/7/2022. Requirements for licensure can change at any time. Please [email](mailto:StateAuthorizationCoordinator@slcc.edu?subject=Licensure%20Question) for more information. |
| Alabama | Alabama does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Alaska | Alaska does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Arizona | Arizona does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [Arkansas](http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/SurgicalTechnologist.aspx) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets the educational requirements for registration in Arkansas.*  **Board**: [Arkansas State Medical Board](http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/SurgicalTechnologist.aspx)  **Contact**: 1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340, Little Rock, AR 72201-2936. Phone: 501-296-1802. Email: [LicenseMonitor@armedicalboard.org](mailto:LicenseMonitor@armedicalboard.org).  **Statute**: [Arkansas Medical Practice Act, Surgical Technologists](http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/pdf/mpa.pdf) (PDF—Scroll to Page 47).  **Additional Information**:   * [Licensure requirements and application packet](http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/pdf/SurgicalTechAppPack.pdf). * Applicants for the registry must attach a copy of their transcript showing successful completion of a nationally accredited surgical technology program. * Applicants must submit proof of NBSTSA or NCCT Certification. |
| California | California does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [Colorado](https://dpo.colorado.gov/SurgAssistTech) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements for Colorado.*  **Board**: [Colorado Office of Surgical Assistant & Surgical Technologist Registration](https://dpo.colorado.gov/SurgAssistTech).  **Contact**: 1560 Broadway, Suite 1350, Denver, CO 80202. Phone: 303-894-7800. Email: [dora\_surgassist\_surgtech@state.co.us](mailto:dora_surgassist_surgtech@state.co.us)  **Statute**: [Laws, Rules, and Policies](https://dpo.colorado.gov/SurgAssistTech/Laws).  **Additional Information**:   * Applicants are required to register in order to work in Colorado. * [Registration information and online application](https://dpo.colorado.gov/SurgAssistTech/Applications). * [Application checklist](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzKoVwvexVATd3pnTlZ6c0k0S2s/view?resourcekey=0-MVF-29le-spq__t7xfPXew). * [Frequently Asked Questions](https://dpo.colorado.gov/FAQ). |
| Connecticut | Connecticut does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Delaware | Delaware does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [District of Columbia](https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/162452) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements for the District of Columbia.*  **Contact:** 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Phone: 202-442-5955. Email: [doh@dc.gov](mailto:doh@dc.gov).  **Statute:** [District of Columbia Regulations](https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=17-80).  **Additional Information**:   * [Application checklist](https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Surgical_Assistants_Application_Checklist.pdf). * [Criminal background check](https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/120532) is required. * DC requires surgical technologists to be certified. * Applicants must have completed a CAAHEP-accredited surgical technology program, completed a program offered by the Armed Forces or completed fulltime work as a surgical assistant/technician. * Applicants must list all surgical assistant certifications they have earned. |
| Florida | Florida does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Georgia | Georgia does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Guam | Guam does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Hawaii | Hawaii does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Idaho | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Idaho.*  **Statute**: [IDAPA 16.03.14 - Rules and Minimum Standards for Hospitals in Idaho](https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/2013/16/0314.pdf) (PDF—Scroll to page 7)).  **Additional Information**:   * Idaho has an administrative rule requiring that surgical technologists (referred to as “operating room technicians” in the rule) either complete a CAAHEP-accredited program **OR** meet the requirements for CST certification by the Association of Surgical Technologists. |
| [Illinois](https://www.idfpr.com/profs/SurgTech.asp) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements for licensure in Illinois.*  **Board**: [IDFPR – Surgical Technologist](https://www.idfpr.com/profs/SurgTech.asp)  **Contact**: PO Box 7007, Springfield, IL 62791. Phone: 217-782-8556. [Online contact form](https://www.idfpr.com/profs/Email/prfGrp05.asp).  **Statute**: [225 ILCS 130. Registered Surgical Assistant and Registered Surgical Technologist Title Projection Act](https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2470&ChapAct=225%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B130%2F&ChapterID=24&ChapterName=PROFESSIONS+AND+OCCUPATIONS&ActName=Registered+Surgical+Assistant+and+Registered+Surgical+Technologist+Title+Protection+Act%2E).  **Additional Information**:   * [Application and instructions](https://www.idfpr.com/Renewals/apply/FORMS/md-st-ac-end.pdf). * Certification is required Illinois. * Applicant must have completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program. * Applicants must have successfully completed the surgical technologist national certification examination provided by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (Formerly the Liaison Council on Certification for Surgical Technologists). * Applicant must be a certified CST, CSFA, or SAC. * Association of Surgical Technologist: [Illinois Surgical Assistant and Surgical Technologist Law](http://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/IL_SA_ST_Law.pdf) (PDF) |
| Indiana | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements for licensure in Indiana.*  **Statute**: Indiana Code [25-36.1 Certified Surgical Technologists](https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/indiana/in-code/indiana_code_25-36-1-1-1)  **Additional Information**:   * Indiana has a state law related to the certification of surgical technologists. In order to use the title “certified surgical technologist” or “CST”, individuals must hold and maintain a Certified Surgical Technologist Credential administered by the NBSTSA. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Indiana Surgical Technologist Certification Law](http://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/IN_ST_Certification_Law.pdf) |
| Iowa | Iowa does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Kansas | Kansas does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [Kentucky](https://kbml.ky.gov/ah/Pages/Surgical-Assistant.aspx) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements for certification in Kentucky.*  **Board:** [Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure](https://kbml.ky.gov/ah/Pages/Surgical-Assistant.aspx)  **Contact**: 310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B, Louisville, KY 40222. Phone: 502-429-7150. [Online contact form](https://kbml.ky.gov/Pages/contact.aspx).  **Additional Information**:   * [Online application portal](https://services.kbml.ky.gov/ebusiness/Login.aspx?mode=login). * [Requirements for certification](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=49251). * Applicants must hold and maintain a certificate from the [NSAA](https://www.nsaa.net/) or LCCST (now [NBSTSA](https://www.nbstsa.org/)). |
| Louisiana | Louisiana does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Maine | Maine does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Maryland | Maryland does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Massachusetts | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Massachusetts.*  **Statute**: [Section 235: Surgical Technologists; standards and requisites for employment; waiver](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter111/Section235).  **Additional Information**:   * Massachusetts has passed laws related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must have completed an accredited educational program for surgical technologists. * Applicants must hold and maintain a certified surgical technologist credential administered by a nationally recognized surgical technologist certifying body. * Some exceptions to these requirements are also available. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/Massachusetts_Surg_Tech_Certification_FAQs.pdf). |
| Michigan | Michigan does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Minnesota | Minnesota does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Mississippi | Mississippi does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Missouri | Missouri does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Montana | Montana does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Nebraska | Nebraska does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Nevada | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Nevada*.  **Statute**: [Sec. 449.24185 Conditions under which health care facility may employ or allow person to engage in practice of surgical technology](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter111/Section235).  **Additional Information**:   * Nevada has passed laws related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must successful complete a program for surgical technologists that is accredited by a national accrediting organization. * Applicants must be certified as a Certified Surgical Technologist by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). * While certification is required, Nevada does not regulate registration at the state level. More information can be found [here](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/ExhibitDocument/OpenExhibitDocument?exhibitId=29667&fileDownloadName=0405ab347_keek.pdf). * Some exceptions to these requirements are also available. |
| New Hampshire | New Hampshire does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| New Jersey | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in New Jersey*.  **Statute**: [C.26:2H-1](https://njast.org/nj-state-law-4/) (from the [NJAST.org](https://njast.org/nj-state-law-4/) website.)  **Additional Information**:   * New Jersey has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * In order to practice surgical technology, applicants must have successfully completed a nationally or regionally accredited educational program for surgical technologists. * Applicants must hold and maintain a certified surgical technologist credential administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). * Association of Surgical Technologists: [New Jersey Surgical Technology Certification Law](https://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/NJ_ST_Certification_law.pdf). |
| New Mexico | New Mexico does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| New York | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in New York.*  **Statute**: [Sec 2824\*2, Surgical Technology and Surgical Technologists](https://newyork.public.law/laws/n.y._public_health_law_section_2824*2).  **Additional Information**:   * New York has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must have successfully completed a nationally accredited educational program for surgical technologists. * Applicants must hold and maintain a certified surgical technologist credential administered by a nationally accredited surgical technologist credentialing organization. * There are a couple of other routes towards meeting this requirement, such as military training programs for surgical technologists. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/NY_Surg_Tech_Law_FAQs.pdf). |
| North Carolina | North Carolina does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [North Dakota](https://www.ndbon.org/UAP-MAIII/Overview.asp) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets the educational requirements for registration in North Dakota.*  **Board**: [North Dakota Board of Nursing](https://www.ndbon.org/UAP-MAIII/Overview.asp)  **Contact**: 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504. Phone: 701-328-9777. Email: [contactus@ndbon.org](mailto:contactus@ndbon.org)  **Statute**: [Article 54-07. Unlicensed Assistive Person Registry](https://www.legis.nd.gov/information/acdata/html/54-07.html)  **Additional Information**:   * [Unlicensed Assistive Person Application](https://www.ndbon.org/www/download_resource.asp?id=592). * North Dakota requires an “[Unlicensed Assistive Person, Technicians and Medication Assistant III](https://www.ndbon.org/UAP-MAIII/Overview.asp)” registry for surgical technologists. * [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.ndbon.org/FAQ/UAPRegistry.asp). * Surgical Technicians must have completed a board-recognized formal training program **OR** maintain current registration or certification by a recognized national body. |
| Ohio | Ohio does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Oklahoma | Oklahoma does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Oregon | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Oregon.*  **Statute**: [Oregon ORS 676.875](https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/676.875)  **Additional Information**:   * Oregon has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must provide the health care facility with documentation showing the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority (CAAHEP or ABHES). * Applicants must hold and maintain a surgical technologist certification issued by a nationally accredited certifying organization for surgical technologists (NBSTSA). * A few exceptions to these requirements are also available. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/NY_Surg_Tech_Law_FAQs.pdf). |
| Pennsylvania | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Pennsylvania.*  **Statute**: [2020 Act 80 – Central Service Technician and Surgical Technologist Regulation Act](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2020&sessInd=0&act=80)  **Additional Information**:   * Pennsylvania has passed a law in 2020 related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must successfully complete a surgical technologist program that is nationally recognized or holds a programmatic accreditation. * Applicants must hold and maintain a surgical technologist certification from an accredited certification program. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Proponent of House Bill 1850 Regulating the Practice of Surgical Technology and Surgical Technologists](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/TR/Transcripts/2018_0050_0006_TSTMNY.pdf). |
| Puerto Rico | Puerto Rico does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Rhode Island | Rhode Island does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| South Carolina | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in South Carolina.*  **Statute**: [§ 44-7-380 Surgical Technology and operating room circulators](https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/south-carolina/sc-code/south_carolina_code_44-7-380).  **Additional Information**:   * South Carolina has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must have successfully completed an accredited educational program for surgical technologists. * Applicants must hold and maintain the Surgical Technologist Certification administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). * Graduates may practice for up to 3 years before completing certification by the NBSTSA. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [FAQ page](http://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/SC_FAQS.pdf). |
| South Dakota | South Dakota does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Tennessee | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Tennessee.*  **Statute**: [§ 68-57 Surgical Technologists](https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/tennessee/tn-code/tennessee_code_title_68_health_chapter_57).  **Additional Information**:   * Tennessee has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must earn national certification from the NBSTSA. * Applicants must have completed a surgical technology program accredited by CAAHEP. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.ast.org/legislation/documents/Tennessee%20FAQs.pdf). |
| Texas | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Texas.*  **Statute**: [Sec. 259.002 Requirements for Practicing Surgical Technology](https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._health_and_safety_code_section_259.002)  **Additional Information**:   * Texas has passed a law related to the education and certification of surgical technologists. * Applicants must provide evidence that they have successfully completed a CAAHEP-accredited or nationally accredited educational program **AND** hold and maintain certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist (NBSTSA) or another surgical technologist certification program. * The [Texas State Assembly of Association of Surgical Technologists](https://www.texasstateassembly.org/) has additional information and resources for surgical technicians in Texas. * Association of Surgical Technologists: [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Public_Policy/Texas_FAQs.pdf). |
| Utah | More information is available at the [top of this page](#_top). |
| Vermont | Vermont does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Virgin Islands | Virgin Islands does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| [Virginia](https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Medicine/ApplicantResources/ApplyforLicense/SurgicalTechnologist/) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Virginia.*  **Board**: [Virginia Board of Medicine](https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Medicine/ApplicantResources/ApplyforLicense/SurgicalTechnologist/).  **Contact**: 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, VA 23233-1463. Phone: 804-367-4400. Email: [medbd@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:medbd@dhp.virginia.gov).  **Statute**: [§54.1-2956.12. Registered Surgical Technologist; use of title; registration](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title54.1/chapter29/section54.1-2956.12/)  **Additional Information**:   * To use the title “registered surgical technologist”, applicants must register with the Board. * To register, the applicant must present satisfactory evidence that they hold a current certification from the NBSTSA, **OR** has completed a surgical technologist training program through the armed services. * [Application information](https://www.license.dhp.virginia.gov/apply/Forms/medicine/SurgTech_instruct.pdf). * [Online application](https://www.license.dhp.virginia.gov/apply/). |
| [Washington](https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SurgicalTechnologist) | **Statement**: *The SLCC Surgical Technology program meets educational requirements in Washington.*  **Board**[: Washington State Department of Health](https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SurgicalTechnologist).  **Contact:** 111 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501. Phone: 360-236-4700. Email: [hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov](mailto:hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov).  **Statute**: [RCW 18.215 Surgical Technologists](https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.215).  **Regulation**: [WAC 246-939 Surgical Technologist Program](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-939&full=true).  **Additional Information**:   * Washington requires registration for surgical technologists. Certification is not required for the registry. * [Application Instructions Checklist](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/669339.pdf). * [Surgical technologist registration requirements](https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SurgicalTechnologist/LicenseRequirements). * [Application and additional forms](https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SurgicalTechnologist/ApplicationsandForms). |
| West Virginia | West Virginia does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Wisconsin | Wisconsin does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |
| Wyoming | Wyoming does not require certification for surgical technologists at this time. |