

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Essential Functions for Career and Program Success

The Surgical Technology program is a fast-paced accelerated program. This pace is reflective of the pace in an operating room.

The following is a guideline for the prospective/current student so the student may understand the requirements and essential job functions necessary for successfully completing the Surgical Technology Program. This list is not all-inclusive but rather provides some detail of the basic requirements of the profession of surgical technology.

- To succeed in the Surgical Technology program, students should expect to devote an average of 40-plus hours a week.
- Due to the heavy time commitment within the program and outside of the classroom, participation and attendance in the program may interfere with work schedules.
- Some students may have difficulty working and maintaining acceptable grades during the program.
- The program requires team-based learning, which may include but is not limited to study groups, class presentations, and labs. The instructor may select groups.
- The program may be required physical and dietary changes of students to perform up to standards in the classroom, lab, and clinical setting.
- Attendance is mandatory with few exceptions; students are expected to be in class, lab, and clinical settings daily.
- Students are required to participate in open lab time to meet the benchmark of clinical preparation pass-off.
- Students must be able to stand and walk in the sterile field for up to six hours at a time and a minimum of eight hours a day.
- Students must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds of surgical instruments safely.
- Students must stand, bend, stoop, and sit for long periods with minimal or no breaks.
- Students must have corrected vision and corrected hearing within normal range.
- Students must be able to understand and speak spontaneously and convey medical and surgical concepts clearly and coherently in English. In addition, the student must realize linguistic, social, and cultural influences that impact healthcare interactions (e.g., specialized vocabulary, discourse styles, language register, dynamics of power and prestige between interlocutors, and triadic communication) appropriate for the operating room's environment.
- Students must be able to appropriately synthesize and effectively verbally convey all scopes of medical information consecutively and simultaneously. In addition, they must understand the ramifications of each format and demonstrate the knowledge and skills to move effectively between these formats during a single interaction during a medical procedure/discourse considering patient safety factors, such as acute care needs and the potential for disrupting the operating room's teamwork.

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

- Students must be able to obtain details and essential information from medication labels written in English to ensure the safety of patients and must be able and willing to accurately follow the directions of the surgical team in the use and scope of these medications.
- Students must be able to see and manipulate all sizes of a suture. Have good depth perception to manipulate surgical instrumentation and equipment with either natural or corrected vision while adhering to sterile technique. In addition, students will need to have manual and finger dexterity.
- Students must be able to bend, reach, squat, kneel, lift both arms above the head, and grasp, move and lift patients. Have full range of motion of extremities, back, and neck, including handling and lifting patients and equipment
- Students must be able to manipulate small surgical instruments with steady, reliable, accurate movements to meet the standards of surgical practice.
- Students must reach forward three feet across a mayo stand/back table in a two-leg stance without losing balance.
- Students must be able to sit on a surgical stool without back support for 6 hours at a time.
- Students must be able to make generalizations, evaluations, or decisions without immediate supervision while in the first scrub role.
- Students must be able to perform simple to complex mathematical skills, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and fractions required for handling medications and calculating military time.
- Students must be able to obtain details, inferences, essential information, and vocabulary from medical records, manuals, journals, instruction in the use and maintenance of equipment, and safety rules and procedures written in English.
- Students must understand the main ideas, important details, implications and relationships between ideas, organize information, and understand the speaker's purpose and attitude. In addition, they will need to demonstrate knowledge of medical terms, procedures, and protocols of the healthcare system/operating room and other healthcare-specialized environments.
- Students must be able to perform single and repetitive tasks.
- Students must possess short-and long-term memory sufficient to perform tasks such as mentally tracking surgical supplies and performing anticipation skills perioperatively.
- Students must maintain a work pace sufficient to industry standards for the operating room and health care environments.
- Students must be able to relate to other people beyond giving and receiving instructions.
- Students must be able to accept and carry out responsibility for the direction, control, and planning of surgical procedures.
- Students must be able to work around and with others and respect their personal

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

space and act appropriately in the specialized American healthcare environment and operating room.

- Students must adhere to clinical immunization requirements throughout the entire program.
- Students must tolerate toxic chemicals, radiation, electrical energy, solvents, blood, and other pathogens and accurately understand the operating room's MSDS sheets and safety protocols.
- Students must be able to wear appropriate safety equipment, including but not limited to: safety glasses, face mask/shield, wear protective equipment and clothing, and surgical gloves for extended periods.
- Students must be able to handle the stresses of an intensive training program in preparation for the stresses of clinical situations such as dealing with dying patients, fast-paced clinical situations, and psycho-social responses of patients with disabilities, diseases, and conditions, responding to emergencies, heavy academic schedule, and so forth.

If an applicant cannot perform any of the designated tasks, SLCC will make reasonable accommodations upon request if these accommodations do not constitute undue hardship on SLCC and do not interfere with any job functions of a surgical technologist.

I UNDERSTAND THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CAREER AND PROGRAM OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY.

Student Name Print: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____