

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY, Associate in Applied Science Degree - 3646

Health Careers Department

CIP Code: 51.0909

The Surgical Technology AAS curriculum prepares an individual to assist in caring for the surgical patient in the operating room and to function as a member of the surgical team. Students apply theoretical knowledge to the care of patients undergoing surgery and develop the skills necessary to prepare supplies, equipment, and instruments; maintain aseptic conditions; prepare patients for surgery; and assist surgeons during surgical interventions. The program provides supervised clinical experience that enables students to develop surgical skills required for entry into practice. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the National Board for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) National Examination for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST). Graduates must pass this certification exam to obtain employment within the state of Pennsylvania. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA). This program may be completed at the Harrisburg Campus through on-campus/in-person instruction.

Selective Program: Entry into this program is not guaranteed with admission to the College; this is a selective and competitive admission program; specific admissions criteria must be met. Please go to the Health Careers website (www.hacc.edu/healthcareers), or contact us by email at start@hacc.edu for specific program entry requirements.

Please note that students interested in this program must begin in the Pre-Health Professions AS degree. Then, students may apply for admission into this program, once they meet the requirements to apply. Students can discuss these admission requirements as part of their advising process.

The following requirements must be completed (at the student's expense) after being selected for, but prior to starting the clinical portion of the program. Requirements include physical examination and immunizations, background checks, drug and alcohol screens and CPR certification. The student should consider these factors before enrolling. If the student has any questions regarding this, he or she should contact the program director.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program prepare for employment as surgical technologists in hospital operating rooms, and outpatient surgery centers.

Competency Profile

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Perform as an entry-level surgical technologist (ST) in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains
- Anticipate the needs of surgical patients by properly preparing the operating room suite, equipment, and instrumentation required for surgical interventions
- Function effectively as a member of the healthcare team
- Communicate effectively with all communities of interest in the delivery of safe patient care
- Value a commitment to life-long learning
- Take the Certified Surgical Technology exam administered by the NBSTSA

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (TOTAL CREDITS = 63)

General Education		Major Requirements		Other Required Courses	
ENGL 101 English Composition I	3	SURG 101 Concepts in Surgical Technology	3	AH 105 Medical Terminology for Health Careers	3
COMM 101 Effective Speaking (or)	3	SURG 105 Pharmacology	1	BIOL 122 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
COMM 203 Interpersonal Communication	(3)	SURG 110 Introduction to Surgical Technology	5	BIOL 221 Microbiology	4
Humanities & Arts Core Elective*	3	SURG 111 Surgical Procedures I	5	BIOL 230 Physiological Pathology	3
Mathematics or Science Core Elective - <i>BIOL 121</i>	4	SURG 112 Surgical Procedures II	5		14
Social & Behavioral Science Core Elective - <i>PSYC 101</i>	3	SURG 210 Surgical Clinical Externship I	3		
First-Year Seminar Elective - <i>AH 140</i>	3	SURG 220 Surgical Clinical Externship II	4		
Wellness Elective	1	SURG 230 Surgical Clinical Externship III	3		
	20		29		

*Students are to select courses from the following: ART 181 or 182; ENGL 206; FMTH 101; HUM 101, 115 or 201; MUS 104; PHIL 200; or a foreign language course.

Updated 3/13/24 ERS

Note: Students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of C to graduate: all BIOL and SURG courses, as well as COMM 101 or 203 and ENGL 101.

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCING FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Part-time students can complete this program by taking one or more courses each semester.

Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I		Summer I		Fall Semester II		Spring Semester II		Summer II	
AH 105	3	BIOL 122	4	SURG 105	1	BIOL 230	3	Humanities/Arts Core Electives*	3	SURG 230	3
AH 140	4	BIOL 221	4	SURG 110	5	COMM 101 or 203	3	SURG 112	5		
BIOL 121	3	SURG 101	3			SURG 111	5	SURG 220	4		
ENGL 101	1	Wellness Elective	1			SURG 210	3				
PSYC 101	3										