

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY - DEGREE

Limited Entry, Associate of Applied Science Degree Program

## Prerequisite Advising

**Academic Advising & Transfer Center:** 503-491-7315 | Room AC2253  
(Student Services) | [Advising.Questions@mhcc.edu](mailto:Advising.Questions@mhcc.edu)

## Faculty Advisers

**Amy Aldus:** 503-491-7459 | Room AC2764 | [Amy.Aldus@mhcc.edu](mailto:Amy.Aldus@mhcc.edu)  
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Surgical technologists (sometimes referred to as "Surg Techs") prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

Before surgery, they:

- Gather, count, and arrange the tools.
- Ensure the needed tools and room are sterile.
- Prepare the patient for surgery.

During surgery, they will:

- Keep the operating room sterile.
- Pass tools to the surgeon and surgeon's assistant.
- Assist in retracting tissues from the patient.

After surgery, they:

- Count and collect all tools used.
- Apply dressings to surgical sites.
- Dispose of needles and gauze.
- Maintain a sterile space until the patient is taken to the recovery room.

Those interested in this career must be detail-oriented because mistakes could be life threatening. Surg Techs must work well under pressure and have great communication skills.

Prior to the end of the program, students must sit for the national certification exam. Passing this exam is required in order to be hired as a Surg Tech in Oregon.

## Accreditation

The Surgical Technology program at MHCC has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Education Programs (CAAHEP) since 1978. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) collaborate to develop standards of quality for surgical technology education programs. On the basis of compliance with the standards and recommendations of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), accreditation is granted by CAAHEP (<https://www.arcstsa.org>).

## National Certification Exam

Students will take the national certification exam for surgical technologists, provided by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), prior to graduation. Program graduates meet or exceed minimum surgical rotation case requirements determined

by Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology. (Sixth Edition, published by the Association of Surgical Technologists).

## Program Outcomes

At the completion of this program, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate acceptable knowledge-based competencies in accord with national standards for surgical technology
- Demonstrate technical (psychomotor) competency in the scrub role in accord with national standards for surgical technology
- Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with national standards and employer expectations
- Demonstrate compassion for the patient and maintain his or her confidentiality
- Demonstrate safe health care practices consistent with employer expectations
- Exhibit a strong sense of ethical behavior and surgical conscience
- Exhibit self-direction and responsibility for actions
- Become employed in an entry-level surgical technology position

## Prerequisite Courses

*For the most updated information and a list of prerequisite courses, please see the Surgical Technology - How to Get Started (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/surgical-technology/get-started/>) page. It is the student's responsibility to verify completion of appropriate prerequisite courses.*

**These courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher before the application deadline:**

- BI231 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★, taken within the past 10 years.
- BI234 Microbiology, taken within the past 10 years.
- MTH058 Quantitative Reasoning I or MTH065 Beginning Algebra II ★ or higher, *fulfills AAS degree mathematics requirement.*
- WR115 Introduction to College Writing ★ or WR121Z Composition I ★ (*fulfills AAS degree written communication requirement*), or placement into WR121Z within the past 5 years.

## Additional Requirements

The following additional requirement(s) must be fulfilled to be awarded the AAS in Surgical Technology.

- All Surgical Technology (ST), Biology (BI), Medical Office (MO), and Computer Skills (CIS or BA) courses must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.
- All core courses (ST) must be completed within 5 years of starting the program.

## Plan of Study

**Note:** Courses with "ST" prefix are offered only in the terms listed. Other courses may be taken during any term.

**Prerequisites**

WR115 or WR121Z	Introduction to College Writing ★ (or placement into WR121Z) or Composition I ★	4
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II ★ (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4
BI231	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★	4
BI234	Microbiology	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

**First Quarter**

<b>Fall</b>		<b>Credits</b>
ST101	Surgical Technology Theory I	4
BI232	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ★	4
MO111	Medical Terminology ★	4
WR121Z	Composition I ★ (if not already completed)	0-4
Health and Physical Education requirement ( <a href="https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health">https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health</a> )		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Second Quarter**

<b>Winter</b>		
ST102	Surgical Technology Theory II	4
ST103	Surgical Technology Theory III	4
ST111	Surgical Technology Lab I	2
BI233	Human Anatomy and Physiology III ★	4
WR122Z or COMM111Z or COMM115	Composition II ★ or Public Speaking ★ or Introduction to Intercultural Communication ★🌐	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

**Third Quarter**

<b>Spring</b>		
ST104	Surgical Technology IV	4
ST112	Surgical Technology Lab II	2
Human Relations requirement ( <a href="https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#human">https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#human</a> )		3
Computer skills requirement - select one of the following:		4
CIS120 & 120L	Computer Concepts I ★ and Computer Concepts Lab I ★	
BA131	Introduction to Business Computing ★	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

**Fourth Quarter**

<b>Summer</b>		
ST155	Surgical Technology Lab for Clinical Readiness	0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>0</b>

**Fifth Quarter**

<b>Fall</b>		
ST204	Surgical Technology - General and Pediatric Surgery	4
ST205	Surgical Technology - Obstetric, Gynecologic and Genitourinary Surgery	4

ST221	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

**Sixth Quarter**

<b>Winter</b>		
ST206	Surgical Technology - Orthopedic Surgery	4
ST207	Surgical Technology - Otorhino-laryngologic, Oromaxillofacial, Plastic and Burn Surgery	4
ST222	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

**Seventh Quarter**

<b>Spring</b>		
ST208	Surgical Technology - Ophthalmologic and Neurosurgery	4
ST209	Surgical Technology - Thoracic, Cardiovascular and Vascular Surgery	4
ST223	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>104</b>

## How to Apply

The surgical technology program is a limited-entry program. This means you must meet certain criteria before you can apply (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/surgical-technology/get-started/>). The program admits 20-24 students every fall term. All students are welcome to apply!

## Academic Prerequisite Courses

There are specific prerequisite courses that must be complete prior to applying for the program. These courses are subject to change with each application cycle.

## Additional Admission Requirements

The program requires students to submit a written exercise, demonstrating their knowledge of the surgical technology field. These writing prompts are subject to change with each application cycle. Currently, the writing prompt is based on the ability to create a job posting for surgical technologists that meets specific criteria, a self-reflection piece, and citation of three surgical technology resources.