



Surgical Technology Information Session

Hello and welcome to the online information session for the Surgical Technology Program at Austin Community College. My name is Pedro Barrera, III, and I am the Department Chair. This presentation will cover basic information about Surgical Technology and the role of the surgical technologist (ST) in the health care team.

Significant information will be provided on the slides and in the audio narrative; you may want to view this presentation several times to ensure that you have all the information you need to apply for admission to the Surgical Technology Program.

We are pleased that you are interested in a career as a Surgical Technologist and look forward to working with you in the near future.

Objectives

Upon completion of this information session you should be able to:

- Define/Describe the Surgical Technology Program**
- List the requirements for admission to the Surgical Technology Program**
- Submit all necessary documents for admission**

The first goal of this information session is to give you a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities that you should expect as you enter the surgical technology profession. I will go over the requirements and documentations that are necessary for admission to the Surgical Technology Program. At the end of this information session you should know what requirements and necessary documents are needed to submit for admission into the program. If you do not understand something about the required documents by the end of the session there will be contact information provided to assist you with any questions that you may still have.

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For more information on the content of this online information session, please click on the appropriate link on the left side of the screen. If you have questions at any time during the information session, click on the pause button at the bottom of the slide, write down your question, then check the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Surgical Technology website or speak to the Health Sciences Information/Admissions Office for answers. Contact information is found at the end of this presentation.

Faculty

- Pedro Barrera, III CST, Department Chair
- Kathy Baumbach MSN, BSN, CST, RN, CNOR
- Michele Richards CST, CFA
- Barbara Powell BSP, MLS, CST
- Glynda Moon CST, MRT
- Susan Diamond CST

Because Surgical Technology is a very diverse and comprehensive profession, each of our faculty has expertise in different areas and they bring this expertise to the classroom. The Surgical Technology faculty is responsible for a variety of subjects. The experience of the faculty is extensive and representative of most areas of specialization.

What is a Surgical Technologist?

- Scrubs, surgical or operating room technicians
- Assist in surgical operations
- Members of operating room teams

Surgical Technologists, (ST) also called scrubs, assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, and along side registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Surgical technologists are members of operating room teams, which most commonly include surgeons, anesthesiologists, and circulating nurses.

Before an operation, surgical technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment, as well as adjust and check it to ensure it is working properly. Technologists may help get patients ready for surgery by prepping and shaving incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating room table, and cover them with sterile surgical drapes.

During surgery, technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgical assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Surgical technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and help apply dressings. Some operate sterilizers, lights or suction machines, and help operate diagnostic equipment.

After an operation, surgical technologists may help transfer patients to the recovery room and clean and restock the operating room.

The Surgical Technology Program at ACC

- Forty eight credit hour program for a certificate
- Sixty three credit hour program for an Associates of Applied Science Degree
- 748 clinical hours at hospitals and private clinics
- Observe or participate in at least 80 - 100 surgical procedures.
- 90% pass rate for graduates who take the national certification exam

The Surgical Technology Program provides the classroom support and clinical training you need to be a successful surgical technologist. For the student who is interested in only receiving a certificate, the program is 48 credit hours. If you would like to earn an Associate of Science Degree in Surgical Technology, it is 63 credit hours. Either degree plan requires 1 year to complete the program after being accepted. The additional co-requisites for the AAS may be completed before, during or after the completion of the required surgical technology coursework.

The program starts twice a year, in the fall and spring, and 16 students are accepted for each class. By the end of the program, the graduate will have scrubbed in and/or participated in approximately 80 - 100 surgical procedures.

The program has 8 clinical sites in the general Austin metro area. Clinical sites must meet the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Standards for student placements. This means that sites must have appropriately credentialed surgical technologists, up-to-date equipment and appropriate variety and number of cases.

Students should have reliable transportation because you can be assigned to any clinical site. The number of students that are accepted for each class is determined by the number of clinical sites available that can safely accommodate the students. The clinical coordinator places students at clinical sites based on the types of procedures being performed.

Of the graduates of the ACC Surgical Technology Program that take the national certification exam, 90% have passed. The program does not have a job placement service. However, possible employers are observing your work during your clinical rotations.

Accreditation

- **Regional Accreditation:** ACC is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- **National Accreditation:** Accreditation Review Committee – Surgical Technology (ARC-ST) www.arcst.org and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) www.caahep.org.

On the basis of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Accredited Educational Programs in Surgical Technology and recommendation of the ARC-ST, accreditation is granted by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs . CAAHEP, in cooperation with the ARC-ST, is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), a non-governmental body which reviews and recognizes accrediting agencies.

CAAHEP is the largest programmatic accreditor in the health sciences field. In collaboration with Committees on Accreditation, CAAHEP reviews and accredits over 2000 educational programs in nineteen (19) health science occupations.

To qualify to take the surgical technologist certification exam, an individual must be a graduate from a (CAAHEP) accredited surgical technology program. ACC is CAAHEP accredited and offers an Associate of Applied Science degree, as well as a certificate. Although the Associate of Applied Science degree is preferred, you will be prepared and eligible to take the certification exam with a certificate. You can obtain the Surgical Technology degree and certificate plans from the ACC College Catalog (in print and on-line), from the Health Sciences Information Office, and from the Surgical Technology website.

Program Requirements

- Criminal Background History:
<http://www.austincc.edu/health/background.php>
- Pregnancy Policy

Successful completion of a criminal background check is required for admission and continuation in **ALL** Health Sciences Programs. Criminal background requirements are found on the Health Sciences home page.

Background checks will be honored for the duration of the student's enrollment in the clinical program if the participating student does not have a break in enrollment in the program. A break in enrollment is defined as nonattendance of one full semester or more.

Once accepted into the program, it is the student's responsibility to immediately notify the Dean of Health Science in writing of any subsequent changes in criminal history that occur after the admission background check has been completed.

Community Standards for criminal background checks were developed in conjunction with the Austin Health Industry Steering Committee (HISC) to meet clinical agency compliance with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards pertaining to human resource management. JCAHO requires verification of competency of all individuals who have direct contact with patients or employees; this includes students doing clinical rotations in the facility. Competency extends beyond technical skills to an individual's criminal history.

Pregnancy Policy

Pregnancy or changes in health status should be reported to the Department Chair to determine if special needs are necessary for clinical experiences. A pregnant student must meet with a surgical technology instructor to review the degree plan and program schedule and discuss options related to the pregnancy and delivery timeframe. A pregnant student must also meet with a surgical technology instructor and the Department Chair for Radiology and have a Physician's Awareness of Pregnancy form completed.

Technical Standards

- Observation
- Communication
- Motor Skills
- Intellectual
- Behavioral and Social

There are certain technical standards and essential functions that outline reasonable expectations of a student in the Surgical Technology Program for the performance of common surgical functions. These requirements apply for the purpose of admission and for continuation in the program. To see a complete explanation of Technical Standards please select the Program Requirements on the left.

Personal Factors

- Cost of Program
- Work/Study
- Time Commitment
- Course Schedule

You can access a cost estimate sheet for the program at the Program Requirement page. The cost will also include any lab fees and/or insurance required.

Working while attending the Surgical Technology Program is extremely challenging for most students. It is highly recommended that work be limited to 20 hours per week because of the time commitment required for classes, labs, clinicals, study and preparation. Plan to spend 2-3 hours on preparation for every hour of class, lab or clinical.

Each Surgical Technology course must be taken in the semester indicated and all the Surgical Technology courses listed in that semester must be taken concurrently. Please note that if a student is unsuccessful in even one Surgical Technology course in any semester, he/she is withdrawn from the Program and must follow a Surgical Technology specified procedure to seek possible re-entry.

A sample of the schedule for the first semester is students attend class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. On Thursdays after the first 8 weeks students will attend clinicals from 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Application Process

Successful admission to ACC does not mean that you are admitted to the Surgical Technology Program.

All applicants must:

- Enroll in ACC
- Follow the admission process for Surgical Technology, including immunization requirements
- Submit your program application after completion of prerequisites
- Do not complete criminal background check until notified by the Surgical Technology Department

Successful admission to ACC does not mean that you are admitted to the Surgical Technology Program. You must visit an advisor to complete the admissions process to the program.

To view detailed program information, click on the “Application Process” link on the left and go to **Step 1**.

There is a link to the immunizations webpage on Application Process on the left side, **Step 2**. View the required immunizations for the Surgical Tech Program . Applications are NOT accepted without documentation of COMPLETED program immunization requirements. Some of the required immunizations can take a minimum of 4 months to complete.

All the prerequisites must be completed to submit the program application.

Submit your application to the Health Science Admissions Office at Eastview Campus in room 8356.

You will not do the criminal background check until instructed by the Surgical Technology Department. Be sure that you read through the information on the Criminal Background Check found on the Health Sciences website and if you have questions about the process, please contact the Health Sciences Compliance Coordinator at co@austincc.edu.

Application Process

- BIOL 2404 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology (**Prerequisite**)
- HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology (**Prerequisite**)
- BIOL 2420 Introduction to Microbiology (**Prerequisite**)

These are the three (3) prerequisites that you must complete before submitting an application. Each of the courses must be completed with a “C” or better. The Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology and the Introduction to Microbiology must have been completed within five years of the application deadline.

Regardless of previous background or educational level, all applicants must complete the prerequisites as stated.

Certificate

- Mathematics 1342 OR 1332 OR 1314
- HPRS 2300 Pharmacology for Health Professions

These courses must be completed before the end of the program.

Upon successful completion of the above listed courses and the program courses, you will receive a Certificate in Surgical Technology.

Associate of Applied Science

- PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology
- ENGL 1301 English Composition I
- SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication

- Humanities/Fine Arts elective*
- XXXX Unrestricted elective

*Can be any course from the General Education Course List – Humanities/Fine Arts

To earn the Associate of Applied Science Degree students must have successfully completed the Surgical Technology Certificate Program in addition to the above course work.

Admission to Program

Submit Surgical Technology application with:

- Copy of completed program required immunizations
- Completion of prerequisites
- Copy of transcripts, other than ACC
- Information Session Confirmation Page

Deadline for fall – June 1

Deadline for spring – September 1

The admissions application is available on the Surgical Technology website under Application Packet. Submit all documentation with the application. There is a check list on the last page of the application. Incomplete application packets will be returned and will not be considered. At the end of this session you will be required to answer a few questions regarding the information in this session and you will need to print out the confirmation page.

Selection to the Program

- The program accepts 16 students in the fall and 16 in the spring
- Students are selected by the date of submission of a completed application

Students who have successfully completed the steps in the application process will be considered for the next class. The department is limited by available clinical spaces to approximately 16 students per semester. Students are selected by the date of the successful submission of the application. Students are accepted twice a year, in the fall and in the spring.

Resources

Many resources are available to Health Science students at ACC through:

- Student Services Office
 - Office of Student-Life Activities
 - Counseling Services
- Financial Aid Office
- Tutoring
- Assistance for students with special needs is available at each ACC campus.
- Student Handbook

These services are available at all of the campuses. Financial Aid Office provides grants, loans, and work study opportunities to students who may otherwise be unable to attend college. There are priority deadlines for financial aid applications. If you miss the deadlines you must be prepared to use your own resources to pay for your initial expenses.

Contact Information

If you have further questions contact:

- Health Sciences Information and Admissions Office:
 - Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Rd, Building 8000, Room 8356, Austin, TX 78702
 - 512-223-5700, Toll Free 888-626-1697
 - FAX: 512-223-5901
 - Email: healthsciences@austincc.edu

If there was anything that you had questions about throughout the information session, or something that I did not cover, please feel free to contact the Health Sciences Admissions and Information Office.