

JOB DESCRIPTION

Also referred to as “scrub techs”, they assist in surgical procedures under the supervision of surgeons and registered nurses. Typical duties:

- Check supplies and equipment for the procedures
- Set up sterile tables with instruments, supplies, equipment, and medications/solutions to prevent patient infection
- Count supplies, such as surgical instruments, to ensure that no foreign objects are retained in patients
- Drape the sterile field
- Ready patients for surgery, such as by washing and disinfecting incision sites
- Help the surgical team put on sterile gowns
- Pass instruments and other supplies to the surgeon and assist during the procedure by holding retractors, holding internal organs in place, or setting up robotic surgical equipment
- After the operation is complete, surgical technologists may apply bandages and other dressings to the incision site.
- Transfer patients to recovery rooms and restock operating rooms after a procedure.

WHERE DO THEY WORK?

- Operating rooms in hospitals
- Central sterile processing in hospitals
- Dental and orthodontic offices
- Private surgical facilities
- Organ and tissue donation organizations
- Experienced surgical technologists may return to teach future technologists

PAY

\$62,830 median annual wage (\$30.21 per hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK

5% (faster than average) 2024-2034

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Ohio currently has no minimum requirements for education, training, or licensing for surgical technologists. Employers determine the qualifications a candidate must meet to be hired as a surgical technologist. Most prefer to hire those who have completed a degree or certificate program and who have passed the exam for certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Getting certified as a surgical technologist in Ohio is the best way to demonstrate knowledge and skills to potential employers. The NBSTSA offers two exams: the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam and the Tech in Surgery-Certified (TS-C) exam. These exams test candidates on their understanding of surgical procedures, anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, sterilization techniques, and the equipment used in surgical settings.

IMPORTANT SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES

- Team player to work well with the surgical team and patients/families
- Detail-oriented to ensure equipment is ready to use and in the right place
- Technical proficiency with a solid foundation in anatomy, medical terminology, and surgical procedures
- Good Communication skills during procedures to communicate with the surgical team
- Dexterity to provide needed equipment quickly
- Good listening skills to respond to requests from surgeons and surgical team members
- Physical stamina, as they are required to stand for extended periods
- Stress-management skills and an ability to work well under pressure

TRAINING PROGRAMS

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY (Cleveland)

Surgical Technologist Online Certification Course: A 4-6 month program. After course completion, students can opt to participate in an optional volunteer externship with a local company/agency/organization. With successful program completion, students may be eligible to sit for the American Allied Health (AAH), National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT), and the National Workforce Career Association (NWCA) national certification exams, provided they meet certain requirements.

csuohio.edu2.com/product/5855/surgical-technologist

TRAINING PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (*Metropolitan Campus, Cleveland*)

Associate of Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology

A 21-month program offered at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus. This program is available as a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree plus front-end program prerequisites and is full-time, day-only, beginning each fall semester. Students are eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) Examination administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) before graduating. This program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/surgical-technology/

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (*Kirtland*)

Associate of Science degree in Surgical Technology

This is a 65-credit-hour program (five semesters), starting each fall. Students will be prepared to take the national certification examination for surgical technology administered by the NBSTSA (National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting) to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST). This program is fully accredited by both ARC-STSA (Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting) and CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs).

www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/surgical-technology-departments

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (*Elyria*)

Associate of Applied Science, Surgical Technology Degree

This is a 64-credit-hour program. The student will be eligible to take the national Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination from the National Board of Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants (NBSTSA). The Lorain County Community College Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

www.lorainccc.edu/health/surgical-and-sterile-services/

STARK STATE COLLEGE (*Canton*)

Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology Degree

This is a 62- to 63-credit-hour program that is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Students will be eligible to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST). The program includes completing 120 surgical cases as part of the clinical externship case requirements.

www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/surgical-technology/

STAUTZENBERGER COLLEGE (*Maumee*)

Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology Degree: This is a 102-credit-hour program with blended learning over 18 months. This program is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). Students will be eligible to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

www.sctoday.edu/programs/surgical-technology-aas

Some of these schools also offer a Sterile Processing Technician Technical Certificate.