



Essential Qualifications for the Surgical Technology Program

The following essential qualifications address the motor, behavioral, emotional, communication and professional conduct essential to the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology at State Fair Community College. Students must meet these essential qualifications in order to be admitted and retained in the program. Students with documented disabilities who wish to request reasonable accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act must follow the college's procedure for requesting accommodations. The college reserves the right to reject requests for accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of an educational program, lower the academic standards, cause an undue hardship on the college, or endanger the health or safety of a student with a disability, other students, or any other member of the college community.

The curriculum for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences necessary for the acquisition and practice of surgical technology skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. Additionally, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow applicants, faculty, and other healthcare providers.

The essential abilities necessary to acquire or demonstrate competence in the surgical technology field, as well as for completion of the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology at State Fair Community College, include, but are not limited to, the following abilities:

Motor Skills:

With or without reasonable accommodations, a candidate for this program must possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective performance in the handling of equipment and instrumentation. They should have the ability to perform controlled motor movements to provide direct patient care and emergency treatments to patients (lifting, transferring, turning patients, or providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation). In general, this requires candidates to be able to regularly lift at least 50 pounds (to carry instrument trays or direct patient care), stand unassisted for eight continuous hours, move carts weighing up to 100 lbs. A full range of motion of body joints the upper extremities is required in all of the above.

Sensory/Observation:

With or without reasonable accommodations, candidates should have normal, functional vision with corrective eyewear; peripheral vision, differentiate color, and differentiate right from left. Candidates should have sufficient auditory abilities to perform efficiently, which includes hearing faint or muffled voices, hearing situations when not able to see lips, and hearing auditory alarms with or without auxiliary aids.

Behavioral/Emotional:

With or without reasonable accommodations, a candidate for this program must have the emotional stability in order to apply critical thinking skills in a systematic and professional manner. They must be capable of exercising good judgment and promptly completing the responsibilities involved in the care of patients. Candidates must be able to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. They must be able to demonstrate and communicate empathy for the situations and circumstances of others. Candidates should be aware that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. Candidates must maintain composure and control emotions in high stress or tense situations and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. They must also be able to stay mentally alert for long periods of time. Candidates must be able to deal effectively with the stresses encountered in required class work per week in addition to family and life demands.

Communication:

With or without reasonable accommodations, the applicant must communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms with individuals of all backgrounds and education levels. The applicant must be able to process and communicate information with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on the applicant's ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner. It is necessary to utilize the English language.

Cognitive:

With or without reasonable accommodations, an applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in the context of surgical technology study. Candidates must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material. They must also be able to recall, evaluate, and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

Professional Conduct:

Candidates must possess the ability to reason morally and practice surgical technology in an ethical manner. They must be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice, must maintain confidentiality, and must demonstrate compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance. Candidates must be able to have respect and engage in patient care delivery in all settings and to all populations regardless of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the reason for surgery. Candidates must possess exemplary personal hygiene due to the surgical site infection risk and the close proximity in which the surgical team works with each other and the patient.

Applicants who are selected for the program must pass a criminal background check as required by our clinical education sites. State Fair Community College's Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology certifies that graduates have been educated to enter practice as a surgical technologist, having demonstrated competency in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Professional coursework and general education requirements contribute to the development and completion of these competencies. To be eligible to sit for the National Certification Exam, all components of the degree program must be completed.

Occupational Exposures:

Candidates must recognize that the work environment will include exposure to diseases, blood and bodily fluids, withstand unusual smells (cauterized tissue), and toxic substances (x-rays, fumes, latex, sterilants).