

Surgical Technologist

Program Code 315121

Technical Diploma - Three Semester Program (Begins in June or August)

Offered at the Green Bay campus. For information: (920) 498-5444.

Toll-free: (800) 422-NWTC, ext. 5444.

Program Description

The Surgical Technologist prepares and maintains a sterile field before and during surgery, passes instruments and supplies to the surgeon, provides safe patient care, and prepares instruments for operative procedures.

Program Outcomes

- Apply health science principles to the peri-operative environment.
- Apply principles of disinfection and sterilization to the surgical environment, equipment, and instrumentation.
- Maintain principles of aseptic technique in the surgical environment.
- Prepare the operating room by gathering equipment and supplies.
- Pass instruments, equipment, and supplies.
- Provide a safe, efficient, and supportive environment for the peri-operative patient.
- Anticipate the sequence of events during surgical procedures.
- Prepare and manage medications and solutions.
- Function as an ethical, legal, and moral member of the healthcare team within the surgical technologist's scope of practice.

Clinical Practicum

Students will be required to purchase scrub suits, pay for liability insurance for each course, provide their own transportation to assigned sites, and cover any other expenses related to clinical experiences. Students may be expected to travel distances, participate in p.m. clinicals, or weekend rotations.

NWTC is required to comply with the Wisconsin Caregiver Law (1997 WISCONSIN ACT 27.) The completion of a caregiver background check includes the review of criminal records for convictions of serious crimes or a history of improper behavior. Students accepted into health programs must complete a background information form disclosing any acts, crimes, or convictions prior to program entry. The information provided in the background information form must be truthful and match any findings on the criminal record check. Students with a criminal history may be denied access to clinical placement at the discretion of the clinical site. Consequently, should a student have a history of convictions of serious crimes or a history of improper behaviors, NWTC cannot guarantee clinical placement, or guarantee graduation within typical program timing.

Employment Potential

A graduate of this program will have the potential for employment in a hospital, out patient surgery, private practice, or clinical setting as a:

- Surgical Technologist
- Central Supply Technician
- Claims Approver
- Private Scrub Technologist

Accreditation

The Surgical Technologist Program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in collaboration with the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology
7108-C South Alton Way, Suite 150
Englewood, CO 80112
(303) 694-9262
FAX (303) 689-0518

Requirements for Program Admission

- Completed application.
- High school transcript or equivalent (such as an HSED or GED® Transcript).
- Academic Skills Assessment, ACT assessment taken within the last three years.

Requirements for Program Entry

- Meet established Academic Skills Assessment program benchmarks or a minimum standard composite score of 14 on the ACT with acceptable scores in Reading, English and Math. Proof of remediation may be demonstrated by an Academic Skills Assessment post-test *or* completion of an approved course in the content requiring remediation.
- Attend mandatory program orientation.
- Complete physical examination within three months before entering the program and maintain current immunization information.
- Complete an American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR course prior to program entry. Students are required to maintain a current CPR card on a one-year renewal cycle to comply with affiliating agency requirements.
- Submit Caregiver Background Check paperwork.

Curriculum

The Surgical Technologist Technical Diploma is a three-semester program. Upon graduation, a student will have completed 33 credits.

First semester courses can be taken prior to being admitted into the Surgical Technologist program.

First Semester

Catalog No.	Description	Credits
10-501-101	Medical Terminology	3
* 31-512-326	ST-Infection Control	1
31-801-385	Communicating-Writing	1
31-801-386	Communicating Effectively	1
* 31-806-312	Anatomy/Struct-Funct	2
Semester Total		8

Second Semester

* 31-512-327	ST-Intro to Surg Tech	4
* 31-512-328	ST-Fundamentals 1	4
* 31-512-329	ST-Fundamentals 2	2
* 31-512-330	ST-Clinical 1	3
Semester Total		13

Third Semester

* 31-512-331	ST-Surgical Procedures	4
* 31-512-332	ST-Clinical 2	4
* 31-512-334	ST-Clinical 3	4
Semester Total		12
Total Credits		33

* No final grade lower than a "C" is acceptable in any of the courses marked with an asterisk. A student who withdraws or receive a grade lower than a "C" in a program course may apply for re-entry into the program. Consideration for re-entry will be at the discretion of the re-entry team and will be dependent on clinical availability.

This program is fully eligible for financial aid.

Please Note

- Some courses have prerequisites (listed at the end of each course description, if applicable) that need to be taken prior to enrolling in those courses.
- Many courses are offered via our Flexible Learning Options (online, accelerated, ITV, video, weekend, and self-paced) and may be taken in any order as long as prerequisites are met. To find out which program courses are offered through Flexible Learning Options, go to www.nwtc.edu or consult a counselor, (920) 498-5444.
- Descriptions of courses not found on this page can be found in the back of this catalog.

Course Descriptions

These courses provide an opportunity for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and understanding required for employment in this field.

10-501-101 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY ...focuses on the component parts of medical terms: Prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Students practice formation, analysis and reconstruction of terms. Emphasis on spelling, definition and pronunciation. Introduction to operative, diagnostic, therapeutic and symptomatic terminology of all body systems, as well as systemic and surgical terminology.

31-512-326 ST-INFECTIO CONTROL ...covers the structure, general classification, reproduction and transmission of microorganisms. Emphasis will be placed on the practice of sterile technique and its impact on infection control in the health care setting.

31-512-327 ST-INTRO TO SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY ...provides foundational knowledge of disinfection, sterilization, infection control, asepsis, legal and ethical issues in healthcare. Simulated laboratory practice enables learner to develop beginning technical skills to function in the operating room. (Prerequisites: 31-806-312, Anatomy/Struct-Funct; 10-501-101, Medical Terminology; Accepted into the Surgical Technologist Program; Corequisite: 31-512-326, ST-Infection Control)

31-512-328 ST-FUNDAMENTALS 1 ...provides identification of basic instrumentation, sterile supplies and surgical equipment. Includes practice experience in the scrub role: creating a sterile field, preparing supplies, draping, passing instruments and supplies, and performing counts. (Prerequisites: 31-806-312, Anatomy/Struct-Funct; 10-501-101, Medical Terminology; 31-512-326, ST-Infection Control)

31-512-329 ST-FUNDAMENTALS 2 ...reinforces the Surgical Technologist role as a member of the operating room team. Discusses pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative patient care with emphasis on surgical wounds, wound closure material, and vital sign counts. (Corequisites: 31-512-327, ST-Intro to Surg Tech; 31-512-328, ST-Fundamentals 1)

31-512-330 ST-CLINICAL 1 ...apply basic surgical theories, principles, and procedural techniques in the operating room. Functions in clinical as a team member under the guidance of the instructor and clinical personnel. (Corequisites: 31-512-327, ST-Intro to Surg Tech; 31-512-328, ST-Fundamentals 1)

31-512-331 ST-SURGICAL PROCEDURES

...provides the foundational knowledge of surgical core and specialty procedures. Examines pathophysiology, diagnostic and surgical interventions for a variety of surgical procedures. (Prerequisites: 31-512-329, ST-Fundamentals 2; 31-512-330, ST-Clinical 1)

31-512-332 ST-CLINICAL ...further experience in a clinical setting to improve technical skills while accepting more responsibilities during surgical procedures. (Prerequisites: 31-512329, ST-Fundamentals 2; 31-512-330, ST-Clinical 1; Corequisite: 31-512-331, ST-Surgical Procedures)

31-512-334 ST-CLINICAL 3 ...enhances technical experience and employee skills. Application of advanced skills for the entry-level surgical technologist in the clinical setting. (Corequisites: 31-512-332, ST-Clinical 2; 31-512-331, ST-Surgical Procedures)