

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Surgical Technology is a career field that is growing faster than average. With the rise in surgical procedures and the advances in technology, fiber optics and laser technology, the field will continue to grow. Hospitals will continue to be the primary employers of surgical technologists, although much faster employment growth is expected in offices of physicians and in outpatient care centers, including ambulatory surgical centers.

In North Carolina the average salary for a surgical technologist in 2006-2007 \$35,878. However, with benefits and bonuses added to this salary, the average total compensation for this position would be \$41,878.

After completion of an accredited Surgical Technology program and receiving certification, your employment opportunities are infinite.



Let **Isothermal Community College** help you become the next member of this surgical team.

Isothermal Community College

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Isothermal Community College shall be open to all eligible individuals who can benefit regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status, ethnic origin, race, religion or disabilities.

Isothermal Community College

Surgical Technology



Improving life
through
learning

Surgical Technology

Surgical Technologists also known as operating room technologists, play a vital role in the success of medical surgery.

Surgical Technologists are members of the operating team whose duties occur before, during, and after surgery. The operating team generally includes surgeons, anesthesiologists, and circulating nurses.

Before surgery, surgical technologists prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions. They inspect all equipment to make sure that it is working properly.

Technicians have a very important responsibility to the patient. They wash, shave, and disinfect incision sites on the patients. They also transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical drapes. They also check patients charts, monitor patients vital signs, and assist the surgical team in putting on sterile gowns and gloves.



During surgery, surgical technologists are responsible for several activities: assisting surgeons and surgical assistants with instruments, cutting sutures, holding retractors, counting sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments, operating

sterilizers, lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment. Surgical Technicians help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis.

After surgery, technologists clean and replenish the operating room. They may also help transfer the patients to the recovery room.

Employment Opportunities

In 2004, surgical technologists held about 84,000 jobs. The employment outlook for this profession is expected to grow faster than average within the next ten years. Hospitals are the major employers of surgical technologists, primarily in the operating and delivery room. However, some are employed by private physicians and dentists who perform outpatient surgery or who practice in ambulatory surgical centers. In some cases, technologists have been hired privately by surgeons to work with special surgical teams. These special surgical teams mainly work with transplant surgeries.

It is expected that hospitals will continue to be the chief employers of surgical technologists, although with growth in ambulatory surgical centers physicians will employ at a faster rate.

Working Conditions

The working environment is very clean, well-lighted, and cool. Surgical Technologists must stand for long periods. They must also remain alert and aware of all the happenings in each surgical operation. Due to the nature of the work surgical technologist may be exposed to communicable diseases, unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.



Most will work a regular 40-hour week,. They, however, may be on call or work nights, weekends, and holidays on a rotating basis.

Educational Requirements

Surgical Technology is a one-year diploma program. In order to be admitted into the Surgical Technology Program you must complete the following:

- Application for admissions to Isothermal.
- Submit official copy of high school transcripts or GED scores.
- Submit official transcripts from all colleges you have attended.
- Complete ASSET/Compass placement testing.
If satisfactory scores are not met you will need to complete developmental courses, with a grade of "C" or better. All developmental courses need to be completed by the admissions deadline.
- Submit 3 references in a sealed envelope. School and work references preferred.

Once you have met the admission requirements, you will be invited to take the PSB, Psychological Service Bureau, Health Occupation. Completion of requirements will not guarantee admission.

*** For additional information about the Surgical Technology Program, please attend a Surgical Technology Informational Meeting. Schedules with the date and times of the meetings can be obtained either at the Career Center or by visiting our website: www.isothermal.edu/career/Health.Sciences.Advising.htm.**