



Surgical Technology Technical Standards and Essential Functions

Philosophy: The Surgical Technology program is accredited and exists to provide graduate Surgical Technologists who meet national standards while satisfying the needs of the community of interest served by the program. Technical standards are an accreditation requirement meant to assist both students and program faculty in determining appropriate qualification for the program. Technical standards must meet state and federal requirements that preserve the rights of individuals with disabilities. The standards below reflect those referenced by the U.S. Department of Labor at <http://www.onetonline.org> and requirements of local job postings.

As set forth in its student catalog, Gwinnett Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, veteran status, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Lisa Richardson, Section 504 and Title IX Coordinator (Lawrenceville campus, Building 100/Room 323) at 678-226-6691 or LRichardson@GwinnettTech.edu.

Purpose: Technical standards will be utilized to identify which students will need assistance in performing tasks and to identify students who would be unable to perform the job of Surgical Technologist prior to program entry.

Areas of Functional Ability:

- A. Gross Motor Skills
- B. Fine Motor Skills
- C. Physical Endurance
- D. Physical Strength
- E. Mobility
- F. Hearing
- G. Visual
- H. Tactile

In addition to the areas tested prior to entry, students must be able to demonstrate a variety of knowledge, psychomotor, and behavioral skills to graduate from the Surgical Technology Program.

Standard Procedure:

1. All applicants will be tested.
2. Only one applicant will be tested at a time.
3. The same program faculty member(s) will conduct testing for all applicants.
4. Results of testing will be used to identify abilities of applicants but not for admission.
5. Applicants who receive a "below standard" score in any category will be referred to Disability Services for further advisement. Advising may include determination of appropriate interventions/assistive devices, assistance in determining appropriateness of the profession for the applicant, presence of disability, or other counseling as deemed necessary.

Surgical Technology Functional Abilities

Category	Test
A. <u>Gross Motor Skills</u>	
1. Sit and maintain balance	Same
2. Stand and maintain balance	Stand on platform
3. Reach above shoulders	IV Pole
4. Reach below waist	Unplug electrical cord
B. <u>Fine Motor Skills</u>	
1. Pick up small objects with hands	Pick up various surgical needles
2. Typing using a computer	Same
3. Twist	Disconnect and assemble equipment
C. <u>Physical Endurance</u>	
1. Walk	100 meters in 1 minute
2. Stand during procedure	Stand at OR bed for 1-3 hrs at a time
3. Sustain repetitive motion	Handle instrumentation
D. <u>Physical Strength</u>	
1. Heavy lifting	Transfer and position surgical patient
2. Repetitive lifting	Lift 30 pound instrument tray
3. Move large equipment	Push a laparoscopic tower
E. <u>Mobility</u>	
1. Stoop/Squat	Squat then rise from standing
2. Move quickly	Retrieve supplies from OR or CS
3. Climb	Climb flight of stairs
4. Bend	Pick up objects from floor
F. <u>Hearing</u>	
1. Hear normal speech	Repeat sentence
2. Hear without seeing lips	Repeat sentence
3. Hear faint body sounds	Identify blood pressure/BS
4. Hear auditory alarms	Identify equipment alarms
G. <u>Visual</u>	
1. See objects at 20 inches away	Mayo Stand
2. See objects at 20 feet away	Countable items off the sterile field
3. Distinguish color	Suture boxes – vessel loop boxes
H. <u>Tactile</u>	
1. Feel Vibrations	Palpate pulse
2. Detect temperature	Identify cold, hot solutions

**Surgical Technology Program
CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTABILITY**

Student Name _____ Date Tested _____

A. Visual Acuity: Acceptable / Below Standard

Reads medication label

Ask Applicant to read medication name, strength, and expiration date at a distance of 24 inches. Inability to decipher information at this distance is below standard.

B. Fine Motor Skills: Acceptable / Below Standard

Load needle holder

After demonstration, ask applicant to load a suture needle onto a needle holder. The inability to load the needle holder is below standard.

C. Strength/Gross Motor Skills: Acceptable / Below Standard

Lift instrument trays and transfer to the OR table

Ask applicant to lift an instrument tray from the outer casing and place it on the OR table. Inability to do so is below standard.

D. Hearing: Acceptable / Below Standard

Repeats phrase correctly

Applicant is asked to turn away from interviewer; interviewer stands 10 feet from applicant. Interviewer states a common phrase used in the operating room: "We need to do a count now". Statement is made in speaking tone, neither loud nor whispering. Ability to repeat phrase is acceptable; Inability to repeat is below standard. This station obviously tests ability to speak and understand English language and could be modified for a non-English speaking individual.