SECTION III:
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
Student Handbook

Surgical Technology Faculty

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HISTORY

The Surgical Technologist Program at Piedmont Technical College began in 1972. One class has graduated every year since May 1973. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (formally, Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation), 9355-113th St N, #7709, Seminole, FL,33775, phone: (727)- 210-2350, email: mail@caahep.org. Upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA), 19751 East Main Street, #339, Parker, CO, 80138, phone: (303) 694-9262, website: www.arcstsa.org.

Many graduates are employed within the college's seven county service area. They are employed by various hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, and physician's offices. They are employed as travel technologists and as private scrubs for surgeons (first assistants).

Discrimination Prohibited

Piedmont Technical College is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination Act, and Title II of the ADA. The college has designated the Director of Human Resources as its Affirmative Action Officer with the responsibility to coordinate its civil rights compliance activities and grievance procedures.

ADA Statement

Students in this program, due to a disability, have a need for non-standard notetaking, test taking, or other course modifications should notify the instructor, in private, as soon as possible.

Program Introduction

The Surgical Technology Program is an associate degree completion program. Successful completion of the course of studies meets the qualifying standards required to take the National Certification Examination for Surgical Technologists.

The primary goal of surgical technology education is the student's acquisition of knowledge, psychomotor, and cognitive skills, and abilities commensurate with entry-level professional practice as a surgical technologist.

Surgical Technology:
- Is a dynamic, cognitive, behavioral, technical process with distinct functions and desired outcomes so that national standards of practice are maintained.

- Is dedicated to the improvement of the profession.

- Promotes enhancement of the safety and protection of personnel and patients.

- Promotes, restores, and maintains health for patients.

- Requires observation of a code of ethics.

- Supports the dignity and rights of the patient.

- Assesses and meets the needs of the patient.

- Promotes life-long learning.

The motto of the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) is "*Aager Primo* – The Patient First". This is facilitated through caring, critical thinking, and effective communication. The educational goal of AST is "Enhancing the Profession to Ensure Quality Patient Care." The Surgical Technology Program reflects both statements.

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the surgical team, providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings, integrating sciences with specialized knowledge, skills, and technology.

Mission

The mission of the Surgical Technology Program is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to gain employment as a surgical technologist and become contributing members of the health care team.

This will be accomplished by (1) preparing competent graduates in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains, and (2) meeting or exceeding the criteria set forth in the current Standards and Guidelines for the Accredited Educational Program in Surgical Technology.

Program Goals

The goals of the Surgical Technology Program are to:
A. Graduate entry-level surgical technologists who are academically and technically competent. (Cognitive and Psychomotor Domains)
B. Promote a collaborative learning environment for students that stimulate personal and professional growth. (Affective Domain)
C. Assist the student in the development of the technical competencies necessary for employment in the field. (Psychomotor and Cognitive Domain)
D. Provide meaningful clinical experiences for skill refinement. (Psychomotor Domain)
E. Apply life-long learning processes by attending continuing educational programs. (Cognitive Domain)
F. Development of professional attitudes and responsibilities. (Affective Domain)
G. Meet the needs of the community.
H. Assess the curriculum and resources on an annual basis.

Minimum Program Outcomes

The minimum goal expectation of the Surgical Technology program at Piedmont Technical College is, "To prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains." Specially the goals of the Surgical Technology Program are to:

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D. Provide meaningful clinical experiences for skill refinement. (Psychomotor Domain)
E. Apply life-long learning processes by attending continuing educational programs. (Cognitive Domain)
F. Meet the needs of the community.
G. Assess the curriculum and resources on an annual basis.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Integrate theoretical knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, medical terminology, microbiology, and pharmacology in the delivery of safe practice as an entry level surgical technologist.
2. Demonstrate the application of principles of aseptic technique while providing optimal patient care in the surgical suite.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in skills and procedures required of a surgical technologist in the clinical/professional setting.
4. Demonstrate communication skills to work effectively as a surgical team member, and professionally interact with healthcare professionals and patients.
5. Apply knowledge of legal, ethical and moral behaviors to reflect a professional and competent entry level Surgical Technologist.
6. Demonstrate safe practice techniques regarding perioperative routines, patient transportation, positioning and emergency procedures.

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Statement of Philosophy

The Surgical Technology Faculty Believe:

That all people have dignity and worth.

That the program should serve people regardless of race, creed, sex, disadvantage, or handicap.

That the cognitive base, psychomotor skills, and affective domain are of equal importance in the training of Surgical Technologists.

That the graduates of this program should possess competence in the technical phases of Surgical Technology and a sound understanding of the scientific principles of Surgical Technology.

That graduates should develop the ability to make independent clinical judgments within the limits of the Surgical Technologist's responsibilities.

That graduates should exhibit strong ethical behaviors and attitudes.

That competent Surgical Technologists are significant participants on the health care team.

Professional Organizations

ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL ON EDUCATION IN SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SURGICAL ASSISTING
ARC/STSA

The ARC/STSA has set the gold standard for higher education programs in surgical technology and surgical assisting. The ARC/STSA is a private, non-profit accreditation services agency that provides national accreditation for more than 400 higher education programs in surgical technology and surgical assisting in collaboration with the Commission on Accreditation of Allie Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The mission of the ARC/STSA is to provide accreditation services to our communities of interest that validate excellence of educational programs to advance the profession and ensure high quality care.

ARC/STSA
19751 East Mainstreet, Suite #339
Parker, CO 80138
(303)694-9262
https://arcstsa.org

ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) was established in 1969 by members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), The American Hospital Association (AHA), and the Association of perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN). As the oldest and most widely recognized professional organization for surgical technologists. AST's primary purpose is to ensure that surgical technologists have the knowledge and skills to administer patient care of the highest quality. AST is the only national organization that represents more than 80,000 surgical technologists and is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors. On the local level, 50 formed state assemblies address member concerns and issues.

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST)
6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 200
Littleton, CO 80120
(800) 637-7433
https://www.ast.org

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION   ON ALLIED HEALTH EDCUATION PROGRAMS

Piedmont Technical College Surgical Technology Program was initially accredited in 1998. It is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

CAAHEP
9355-113th St. N # 7709
Seminole, FL 33775
Phone (727) 210-2350
Fax (727) 210-2354
http://www.caahep.org/

NATIONAL BOARD OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SURGICAL ASSISTING

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), formerly LCC-ST was established in 1974 as the certifying agency for surgical technologists. NBSTSA is organized as a501-C (6) organization and is solely responsible for all decisions regarding certification; from determining eligibility to maintaining, denying, granting, and renewing the designation.
The purpose of NBSTSA is to determine, through examination, if an individual has acquired both theoretical and practical knowledge of surgical technology or surgical first assisting. In addition, through the acquisition of continuing education credits or by re-examination, CSTs certified after August 31, 1977, and all CST/CSFAs are required to stay up to date with changes in the medical fields.

NBSTSA
3 West Dry Creek Circle
Littleton, CO 80120
(800) 707-0057
https://www.nbstsa.org/

Association of Surgical Technologists
Code of Ethics

1. To maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and patient care.

2. To hold in confidence, with respect to the patient's beliefs, all personal matters.

3. To respect and protect the patient's legal and moral rights to quality patient care.

4. To not knowingly cause injury or injustice to those entrusted to our care.

5. To work with fellow technologists and other professional health groups to promote harmony and unity for better patient care.

6. To always follow the principles of asepsis.

7. To maintain a high degree of efficiency through continuing education.

8. To maintain and practice surgical technology willingly, with pride and dignity.

9. To report any unethical conduct or practice to the proper authority.

10. To adhere to the Code of Ethics always in relationship to all members of the heath care team.

CAAHEP Program Accreditation

The Surgical Technology program of Piedmont Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP). A copy of the Standards and Guidelines for Accredited Educational Programs in Surgical Technology is available in the program coordinator's office. The program received initial accreditation in 1998 and received continuing accreditation in 2022.

Students who graduate from a CAAHEP accredited surgical technology program are eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination. The examination is administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

This is a computer-based examination and uses 175 multiple choice questions in three major areas:

- Perioperative Care
- Ancillary Duties
- Basic Science

Surgical technologists who successfully complete this examination are awarded the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential.

About the Program . . .

This is an Associate Degree Program which provides the participant with the knowledge and skills required to enter the field of Surgical Technology in accordance with the Accreditation Review Committee for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting and the Association of Surgical Technologist guidelines.

During the pre-clinical phase of the program, emphasis is placed on classroom and laboratory instruction as preparation for participation in the clinical phase. Classroom instruction conducted at the Greenwood campus includes anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, microbiology, patient care in surgery, sterile technique, surgical techniques, instrumentation, and surgical procedures.

The clinical experience is received at various clinical sites. The student functions under the supervision of the instructor, staff Surgical Technologists, or registered nurses in performing as a member of the surgical team. The clinical phase includes further classroom instruction that will be scheduled, but emphasis is placed on extensive clinical experience in actual surgical procedures.

The following information will provide information about each course in the program and what is expected of you as a student in the program.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS TO PROGRESS IN THE PROGRAM

The surgical technology program requires successful completion of all biophysical science, general education, and major (SUR) courses. A minimum grade of "C" is required in all these courses.

BIO 112, ENG 101, PSY 201, AHS 102 and MAT 155 or (Algebra exemption) must be taken prior to entering the program.

BIO210 and 211 may be substituted for BIO 112

The courses of the program are to be taken in a prescribed semester sequence. A grade below a "B" on any SUR or general education course will not allow the student to continue or progress. This is necessary to provide minimally safe surgical technologists. The student will be dropped from the program if the following occurs:

- Two attempts in the surgical technology program.

- Failure to achieve a minimal GPA of 3.0 is required each semester.

- Lack of the documentation of acceptable health status as outlined in the PTC Health Care Health Assessment Form is not available.

- Student does not have a current Healthcare Provider CPR card.

- Student cannot provide documentation of a yearly OSHA Blood borne Pathogens and TB educational workshop.

- For further information, please refer to the Healthcare Division Handbook.

CRITERIA FOR PROGRESSION IN THE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM:

1. For the student to progress in the Surgical Technology program, a grade of "B" (80) or higher must be achieved in all courses with the prefix SUR. Students earning less than a "B" (80) in such course will be automatically withdrawn from the Surgical Technology program.

2. Surgical Technology students must obtain a passing score of 100% satisfaction on 100% of all psychomotor and affective domain objectives (competencies) in all surgical technology program courses to progress. Students will be allowed two attempts to successfully pass a psychomotor or affective competency. A grade of pass or fail is only given. Failure to pass a psychomotor or affective competency in two attempts will result in the student failing the course resulting in dismissal from the program.

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3. For further information, please refer to the Healthcare Division Handbook.

Readmission and Health Care Attempts Policy

Readmission is limited to ONLY 2 unsuccessful attempts in the Health Care Division.
An unsuccessful attempt is defined as receiving a C, D, F, U or W in the Health Care Division in a semester*.*
Any student who has used the maximum (2) allowable attempts may be granted one additional Health Care program attempt after a minimum of 5 years from the last Health Care program semester.

Readmission Guidelines after (1) unsuccessful attempt:

- Complete and submit the Readmission Application available online within the established timeframe.
- Must be in good academic standing with the college (e.g. overall GPA of at least 2.0);
- Have no more than one prior unsuccessful attempt in a Health Care Division program semester.
- Students who are eligible for readmission but cannot complete the specific program within the time limits allowed for the program must re-apply for the beginning of the program based on specific program accreditation policy. **Re-entry at the beginning of a program does not negate previous attempts in a program and may require some additional remediation.**
- Any student desiring readmission to the any Health Care Program may be required to demonstrate competency and remediation in all classes completed.

Meet the following additional conditions of eligibility:

- Updated Castle Branch health requirements according to current criteria, proof of current BLS Provider CPR certification and healthcare orientation.

- Submit to a new background check and drug screening if the student has been out for one entire semester or longer.

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SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE DEGREE CURRICULUM

Program Ready and General Education Courses and Credit Hours

ENG 101 English Composition 1	3.0
MAT 155 or exemption (algebra)	3.0
BIO 112 Basic Anatomy	4.0
AHS 102 Medical Terminology	3.0
PSY 201 General Psychology	3.0
Humanities Requirement	3.0
	19.0

Program-3 semesters

Fall semester-

SUR 101-Introduction to Surgical Technology	5.0
SUR 102-Applied Surgical Technology	5.0
SUR 116-Basic Surgical Procedures	3.0
SUR 115-Terminology for Surgical Technologist	2.0
	15.0

Spring semester-

SUR 103-Surgical Procedures I	4.0
SUR 104-Surgical Procedures II	4.0
SUR 110-Introduction to Surgical Practicum	5.0
	13.0

Summer Semester-

SUR 106-Advance Surgical Procedures	2.0
SUR 114-Surgical Specialty Practicum	7.0
SUR 120-Surgical Seminar	2.0
	11.0

Other Courses Required for Graduation

AHS 155-Special to Pics in Healthcare	3.0
AHS 170-Fundamentals of Disease	3.0
Or	
AHS 205 Ethics and Law for Allied Health Professions	3.0
	9.0

Total Credit hours	**67.0**

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY ACADEMICS REQUIREMENTS

The Surgical Technology program requires successful completion of all general education and major (core SUR) courses. Courses are offered in a prescribed sequence and must be taken in that sequence. BIO 112, ENG 101, AHS 102, MAT 155, and PSY 201 or (Algebra exemption) must be taken prior to entering the program.
A minimum grade of "C" is required on all general education and major (core) courses.
A grade below a "B" on any SUR course will not allow a student to continue and progress through the Surgical Technology Program. The student will be withdrawn from the program. If the student seeks readmission to the program, the Health Science Readmission and Audit Policy is followed.

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
70-79	=	C
60-69	=	D
0-59	=	F

Remember, a "B" is the lowest passing grade for all the program courses.

Dress Code and Clinical Requirements

UNIFORM: Only school mandated tops and pants with the official Piedmont Technical College Health Care Student logo will be acceptable. Undergarments should not be visible. Colors of undershirts are limited to solid options of white, navy, black, and grey.

LAB COATS: Only approved PTC lab coats with the official Piedmont Technical College Health Care Student logo may be worn over the uniform in clinical, fieldwork, or lab settings. Personal coats are not allowed in clinical facilities.

SHOES: Shoes must be one solid color. Extravagant designs or colors are not allowed. No clogs, sandals, canvas, or open heels or toes.

HOSIERY/SOCKS: Student are permitted to wear solid-colored socks and/or stockings.

WATCH: A watch with ability to count seconds.
*Some healthcare programs may not require watches.

NAME/PICTURE BADGE: PTC Student ID and specific agency badge must be worn on uniform top. Obtain picture ID from library on Lex Walters Campus and appropriate healthcare facility. At the end of each course or upon withdrawal, the agency specific badge must be returned to the course instructor. A fee may be assessed for replacement badges.

JEWELRY: Only a wedding band is permissible. Facial jewelry may only be worn on the ears, limited to one small stud per ear. Nose rings, brow piercings, nose piercings, tongue piercings, and/or cheek piercings are not allowed.

HAIR: Hair should be neat, clean and off the uniform collar in a controlled fashion. Ponytails must be controlled and not drop forward when giving patient care. Bangs must be contained and not drop forward into the face when providing care. Hair must be a natural human color. Beards and mustaches must be neatly trimmed.

COSMETICS: Natural looking only. No bright eye or lip color. No artificial eyelashes.

NAILS: Clean, short, and without polish. Nails should not protrude over the ends of the fingers when the hand is held directly in front of the face with the palm toward the face. No nail treatment of any kind is allowed.

SMOKING/VAPING: Not permitted at any clinical setting, whether in uniform or street clothes. Smoke odor will be brought to the attention of the student and may result in being dismissed from the clinical site.

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CHEWING GUM: Chewing gum is not allowed while in clinical.

TATTOOS: Tattoos considered offensive or inappropriate are not permitted and must be covered while at clinical. Tattoos and body art from the neck up are not permitted.

PERSONAL HYGIENE: Body must be kept clean and free from odor. Use of deodorant is recommended. Perfume or aftershave is not permitted. Noticeable halitosis, body or smoke odor will be brought to the attention of the student.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
•   The student is required to adhere to the uniform policy of the clinical facility in which he/she is assigned. Any additional regulations of the clinical facility which are not covered in this handbook must be met by the student.

•   Students may not wear any Piedmont Technical College healthcare student identification or uniform except while they are in their role as the student. Doing so will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

•   Electronic devices are not allowed in the clinical setting for personal use unless prior permission is given by your instructor.

Surgical Technology
Program
Cost Approximation

Tuition: based on county of residence and credit hours

Uniforms: (2) $125-$150

Shoes: $50-$75

Surgical Technology pin: $15 (included in fall tuition)

Clinical Rotation Tracker: Approximately $75

Clinical Requirements: (Physical exam, immunizations, lab tests, drug test, background check) $250-$300

Books: (3 Semesters) approximately $1,000

National Certification Exam/ Membership Fee: $247(included in fall tuition) (includes

the first attempt at CST exam, AST Study Guide, and 1-year membership to AST)

Self-Assessment exam fee: $50 (included in spring tuition)
Adaptive Testing fee: $250

Dosimeter Badge: $60

*You must provide your own transportation to and from your externship, which could be in any of the seven counties served by Piedmont Technical College.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Advisory Committee Representative

Members of the Advisory Committee include program faculty, college administration, student representatives, public members, and clinical affiliate representatives (department directors, supervisors, clinical educators, certified surgical technologists, and past graduates of the program). The class will have the opportunity to elect one of their peers to represent the concerns of the group while serving as a student member of the Surgical Technology Program Advisory Committee.

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STUDENT WORK POLICY

Students will not be eligible to receive any monetary remuneration during any clinical education experience. Also, the surgical technology student will not be substituted for hired staff or personnel within the clinical institution in the capacity of a surgical technologist.

_____

Piedmont Technical College
Surgical Technology

Print Name: _____

I acknowledge that I have read the *Surgical Technology Student Handbook* and have had the opportunity to clarify any questions. I indicate my understanding and willingness to comply with the information contained in both the Surgical Technology Student Handbook and the Piedmont Technical College Student Handbook. I understand the faculty reserves the right to revise and update this handbook and that I will be made aware of any changes made in this handbook in writing.

I have read and understand the Surgical Technology policies and their consequences if not followed and agree to abide by them:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

❖ This sheet is to be uploaded into assignments tab in your D2L course