Savannah Technical College
5717 White Bluff Road
Savannah, GA   31405

Surgical Technology Program

FACT BOOKLET

Savannah Technical College offers an Associate's Degree in the Surgical Technology.

The Surgical Technology Program is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and graduates are eligible to take the National Certifying Examination to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) can be reached by writing:
9355-113th St. N, #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
P: 727-210-2350
E: mail@caahep.org

The Surgical Technology Program is designed to prepare qualified individuals through classroom instruction, testing, and clinical practice for a career as a surgical technologist.

Employment Characteristics

A majority of surgical technologists work in hospitals, principally in the surgical suite and also in emergency rooms and other settings that call for knowledge of, and ability in maintaining asepsis, such as materials management and central service. Surgical Technologist also works in a wide variety of settings and arrangements, including outpatient surgery centers, private employment by physicians, or as self-employed technologists.

Those who work in hospital and other institutional settings are usually expected to work rotation shifts or to accommodate on-call assignments to ensure adequate staffing for emergency surgical procedures during evening, night, weekend, and holiday hours. Otherwise, surgical technologists follow a standard hospital workday. Certified Surgical Technologists (CST's) with additional specialized education or training may also act in the role of the Surgical First Assistant, CST/CFA.

Salaries vary depending on the experience and education of the individual, the economy of a given region, the responsibilities of the position, and the working hours.

Revised 12-2020

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1)   What is the future in the Surgical Tech profession?

*According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field of Surgical Technology is projected to experience rapid job growth as the need for surgeries increases. A 25 percent increase in Surgical Technology jobs is expected by 2020. (*http://www.bls.gov/ooh/ocos106.htm *)*

2)   Where will I be able to find a job with this type of training?

Surgical Technologists work in operating rooms, delivery rooms, central supply areas, ambulatory surgery centers, organ retrieval units, surgical equipment sales, and with private physicians in a specialty area.

3)   What will I earn?

Surgical Technologist salary in the local area varies depending on the location and specialty. When considering positions, one should remember to look at the total package of benefits along with the base salary. For example, a slightly lower salary may be more beneficial if the health insurance and retirement benefits are generous.

4)   What will I learn to do in this program?

As a graduate Surgical Technologist, you will possess the skills to handle the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure. You acquire an understanding of the procedure being performed and anticipate the needs of the surgeon. You attain the necessary knowledge and ability to ensure quality patient care during the operative procedure and are constantly on vigil for maintenance of the sterile field.

5)   How long will it take me to get the training?
It will take approximately 24 months to complete the Surgical Technology program.

6)   When should I apply for acceptance into the program?

A Competitive Application must be submitted at the established dates and times during spring semester for the AAS Degree. Applications are available online on the Savannah Technical College Website.

7)   Can I start the program at any time I desire?
No. The program begins once a year. However, you must complete the Healthcare Science TCC prior to entering the Degree Program.

8)   As a good Surgical Technologist, what personal traits should I have?
The ability to perform under pressure in stressful and emergency situations, a stable temperament, and a strong sense of responsibility, considerable patience, and concern for order, manual dexterity, and physical stamina are vital. One must be able to work quickly but accurately and oriented to detail, be able to integrate a number of activities according to priority, with a strong desire to help others.

9)   What costs are associated with the Surgical Technology program?

Estimated Program Costs

Tuition	$100.00 per Credit Hour
Uniforms and Equipment	$255.00
Liability Insurance (Yearly)	$16.00
Text Books	$800.00
AST Student Membership	$45.00
Miscellaneous (School pin, graduation, etc.)	$125.00
Surgical Counts – On Line Clinical Log Book Assessment	$50.00
X ray Film Badges	$50.00
TOTAL	$1341.00*

NOTE: All cost associated with the program are subject to change without notice.

*does not include tuition.

10)   Is financial aid available?
Yes. Contact Student Affairs in the "one-stop center" for information concerning the availability of financial aid.

11)   To what hours do I need to commit to complete the program?
Classroom hours are normally from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with a ½ for lunch at 12:00 pm. You may occasionally have a late afternoon lab class. Clinical hours are normally the same each Semester (6:15 am – 6:30 pm). As you can see, you must be flexible about your hours to complete this program.

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12) **When will I start clinical (hospital) experience?**
Clinical experience begins fall, and includes spring and summer. Training sites include area hospitals and private surgical practices.

13) **What is the attendance policy?**

STC: Students are expected to be punctual and attend all classes for which they are registered. Attendance requirements vary by academic program and students should consult with their instructor to determine the specific attendance requirements for the class. Class participation includes completing activities, such as, submitting assignments, taking an exam/quiz, participating in interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction. Students who are registered for online or hybrid classes are expected to participate in those classes by completing assignments (including syllabus exam), contributing to online discussions, and initiating contact with a faculty member. Logging into the online or hybrid class does not establish student enrollment and participation in the class. Students must establish presence in class through their participation in class each academic term before financial aid funds are disbursed. Student attendance will be monitored by their instructor for the first seven (7) calendar days of each academic term.

The National Board of Surgical Technologist and Surgical Assisting requires that students complete a set amount of contact hours in class and clinical in order to sit for the National Certification Exam. Therefore, any missed hours from clinical will need to be made up prior to the semester end. If clinical hours are not made up prior to semester end, the student will receive an incomplete.
Note: Only 2 absents are allowed before a student is referred to the Dean for program dismissal.

14) **Can I hold down a part time job while attending school?**

Working while in the program is not recommended. It has been done but is very difficult.

15) **How much homework is required?**

There is a great deal of out of class study required. The average student spends from two to four hours after class/clinical each day studying.

16) **How are students evaluated?**

Academic grades for classes are determined by performance on written exams. Academic grades will be either "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F." A grade of "C" or better must be achieved in order to progress in the program. Lab grades are weighted from lab skills check offs, which is a demonstration of your skills that was demonstrated to you previously. Clinical grades are based on daily observation of your procedures at the clinical facility as well as written clinical evaluations received daily from preceptors. Contact your instructor for details on computing work ethic grades.

17) Do I have to take a special exam to become a Certified Surgical Technologist?

Yes. Passage of the NBST/SA (National Board of Surgical Technology/Surgical Assisting) is required to become a Certified Surgical Technologist. The National Boards Exam is administered during the Month of August after successfully completing the Program. The exam is given on Campus at Savannah Technical College. Cost of the Test is $190.00 for students who are AST members. This fee is now included into tuition cost.

18) Does it cost anything to take the Certification Exam?

Yes. It costs $45.00 for membership to the AST (Association of Surgical Technology and $190.00 to take the Certification Exam.

19) Do I have to have uniforms?

Yes. Surgical Technology students must purchase the standard uniform. Students will have the opportunity to order uniforms when you first enter the program. During the first 2 weeks of the program students will be measured and Fitted for scrubs and lab coats.

Lab coat:	$30.00
3Sets of Scrub tops and Bottoms	$60.00
Warm up Jacket	$25.00
Safety Goggles	$20.00
White tennis Shoes	$50.00
Monogramming	$15.00
Total	Approx. $200.00

NOTE: All costs associated with the program are subject to change without notice.

20) Are Surgical Technology courses offered at night?

No. However, many core courses are offered at night and online every semester.

Surgical Technology Program Acceptance Requirements

1. *Obtain regular admission status to Savannah Technical College. (Official Transcripts must be submitted to the office of Student Affairs when student applies to Savannah Technical College)*
2. *Complete the Competitive admission Form to be considered for admission into the program. See advisor for submission dates.*
3. *Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.*
4. *Students on Academic Warning or Academic Suspension will not be considered for admission into the program.*
5. *Attend a mandatory Surgical Technology Orientation Program upon acceptance to the program.*

**Advancement into the Surgical Technology Degree program is competitive and meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program
Prior to clinical experience the following must be obtained:**

1. Tuberculosis skin test PPD, Influenza, Hepatitis B (within 2 months of attending clinical)

2. Current CPR certification proof. Only American Heart Association certification is accepted. (Must be valid through the duration of clinical)

3. Immunization record

4. Malpractice Insurance

5. Background Check

6. Drug Screening

Academic Standards

Surgical Technology students must receive a "C" or better in all curriculum courses (SURG) in order to stay in the program. If a student receives a "D"or "F", they will be dismissed from the program. The student must then wait for one year (1) before reapplying for re-entry into the program. Please note that a student that fails a course the student will not automatically get back into program and ALL Surgical Program courses will have to be Retaken.

Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for his or her transportation to and from clinical sites and their own medical malpractice insurance.

CLINICAL CASE REQUIREMENTS
Clinical case requirements are outlined below and consist of 120 cases as the standard load recognized by CAAHEP and ARC/STSA. Please refer to the Surgical Rotation Case Requirements handout insert from the CORE CURRICULUM FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST, 6th edition.

Surgical Specialty	Total # of Cases Required	Minimum # of First Scrub Cases Required	Maximum # of Second Scrub Cases That Can be Applied Towards 120 Cases Required
General Surgery	30	20	10
Surgical Specialties	90	60	30
Totals	**120**	**80**	**40**

Nondiscriminatory Policy and Institutional Status

Savannah Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, marital status, handicapped conditions, and national origin, academic or economic disadvantages in educational programs, services, activities or in employment practices. Savannah Technical College is a division of the Technical College System of Georgia. Savannah Technical College is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of Southern Association and Schools to award associated degrees and diplomas.

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