

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Science



## University Profile

The University of Saint Francis was founded in 1890 and has a rich heritage of offering quality education. Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions of Faith and Reason, the University of Saint Francis engages a diverse community in learning, leadership and service.

The campus has 108 acres of rolling lawns and trees with 19 buildings and four residence halls that surround beautiful Mirror Lake.

Personal attention to students is what makes a USF education so meaningful and enriching to its approximately 2,000 students.

## Surgical Technologists

Surgical Technologists are crucial members of the surgical team, working closely with surgeons, registered nurses and anesthesiologists to provide the best possible care for the patient in surgery. Traditionally, Surgical Technologists have organized sterile supplies and instruments and passed them to the surgeon as needed. As their role has expanded, Surgical Technologists act as surgical first assistants, providing exposure to the surgical wound by handling tissue under the direction of the surgeon. Certified Surgical Technologists may also assist the registered nurse as an unsterile "circulator," performing patient care, completing documentation of the surgery and dispensing supplies to the sterile team. A Surgical Technologist should possess a stable temperament, manual dexterity, physical stamina, and the ability to integrate and prioritize a variety of activities.

## Job Opportunities

Surgical Technologists are employed in hospital operating rooms, delivery rooms, same-day surgeries, or clinics. Many work as private scrubs to surgeons. They also may apply their knowledge in other realms such as purchasing, sterile processing, education, or medical device sales. Starting out, a Surgical Technologist may expect to earn between \$27,000 and 32,000 a year.

## Program Overview

The university offers northeast Indiana's only Surgical Technology Program in a collegiate setting. You'll be taking essential academic courses, surgical technology courses, labs, and clinical sessions. The academic emphasis, as well as clinical practice in a variety of operating room settings, will prepare you for your future as a Surgical Technologist. The Surgical Technology course sequence starts every fall; however you may begin general education

courses any semester. Options are available for you to attend full or part time. Clinical courses take place only during the day.

## Surgical Technology Program Accreditation

The USF Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in collaboration with the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC-ST). Questions regarding Surgical Technology Program accreditation may be directed to CAAHEP, 1361 Park Street, Clearwater, FL 33756, phone 727-210-2350 or the ARC-ST, 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 110, Littleton, CO 80120, phone 303-694-9262.

## Program Outcomes

Reflecting Franciscan values, the Surgical Technology graduate will:

1. Respect and protect each patient's right to privacy, dignity, safety, and comfort.
2. Demonstrate compassion in perioperative patient care and professional relations.
3. Utilize strong surgical conscience to ensure the environmental safety of patients, healthcare personnel and self.
4. Skillfully apply scientific and surgical theory to aseptic technique, instrument handling skills, tissue manipulation, and patient care.
5. Utilize technology in preparation for expanded roles as a Surgical Technologist.
6. Integrate concepts from the social and behavioral sciences into interpersonal relations.
7. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
8. Assume responsibility for self-direction by participating in activities that contribute to personal and professional growth.

## Curriculum Plan

This is a suggested sequence of courses to complete the requirements on a full-time basis. All Surgical Technology courses must be taken in the order listed. Changes may be made in the curriculum as necessary.

### Semester I

Fundamentals of Surgical Technology I	4
Clinical Education I	2
Concepts of Patient Care	2
Anatomy and Physiology I	3
Rhetoric and Composition	3

### Semester II

Fundamentals of Surgical Technology II	4
Clinical Education II	2
Anatomy and Physiology II	3
General Psychology	3
College Algebra	3

### Summer

Introduction to Microbiology	3
Religion/Theology elective	3

### Semester III

Surgical Procedures I	4
Clinical Education III	6
Surgical Pharmacology	2
Introduction to Computers	3

### Semester IV

Surgical Procedures II	4
Clinical Education IV	6
The Professional Surgical Technologist	2
Physical Survey	3
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Full-time Surgical Technology students are in class and clinicals approximately 22 to 31 hours per week.

First-time, full-time students are required to enroll in a one credit Foundation for Success course. Placement testing may necessitate enrollment in one to three credits of reading or additional mathematics courses.

## Program Philosophy

The University of Saint Francis Department of Surgical Technology is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of individuals who seek realization of their potential through education in the Surgical Technology field. The faculty believe that Surgical Technology education is best accomplished in an academic setting where learning is given the highest priority. A broad base of general knowledge, combined with a wide variety of clinical experiences, can best facilitate student achievement of academic excellence and clinical competence.

Learning is a life-long process that includes cognitive, psychomotor and behavioral components. Learning is best accomplished when the learner is self-directed and participates

actively in the educational process. It is presumed that learners who have chosen to pursue higher education are motivated to learn and strive for success. Efficient, knowledgeable application of theory to clinical practice coupled with caring behavior toward the patient demonstrates the learner's commitment to quality surgical patient care.

Through a cooperative relationship with the learner, the instructor acts as a facilitator who guides the learner through the acquisition of academic knowledge, clinical skills and professional values. In an atmosphere of mutual trust and open communication, the instructor addresses each individual's learning needs in a caring manner. The instructor encourages critical thinking and inquiry as maximum development of the learner's potential is achieved.

All human beings, as unique creations of God, deserve the preservation of their safety, dignity and individuality. Caring services are delivered to the surgical patient regardless of sex, race, creed, economic status, personal lifestyle, or diagnosis.

The education obtained in the university's Surgical Technology Program gives the student a broad base of knowledge in the sciences, humanities, social sciences, surgical techniques, and operative procedures. Graduates are expected to continue their professional growth by maintaining national certification, developing expertise in specialty areas and supporting their professional organization.

### National Certifying Exam

Prior to graduation, USF students sit for the National Certifying Exam offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting. This professional credential validates essential knowledge and skills necessary for practice as a Surgical Technologist. In recent years, graduates have achieved well above the national average on the exam. Only graduates from CAAHEP accredited Surgical Technology programs are eligible to take the National Certifying Examination for Surgical Technologists.

Surgical Technologists with additional experience or education as first assistants may take the National First Assistant Certifying Examination to add to the basic certification.

### Admission Requirements

The university accepts a limited number into this program. You will be considered for admission into the program after meeting the university's admission criteria. We recommend you have four years of college preparatory English; three years of college preparatory math; three years of laboratory science; two years of social sciences; and another 14 credits in foreign language, fine arts and elective courses.

The applicant without previous college experience must meet two of the following criteria:

- Rank in the upper half of the high school graduating class.
- Have a high school GPA of 2.40/4.00 or above.
- Earn a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 1000 (Verbal/Critical Reading and Math combined) or an ACT composite score of 21 or higher. For SAT test administrations prior to April 1995, a score of 800 is required.
- Possess a General Educational Development (GED) total score of 2500 with no sub-score below 500. Prior to 2002, a composite score of at least 50 and no sub-score below 40 is required.

### Transfer Students

- Applicants who have previously attended an accredited college or university must submit official college transcripts with a GPA of 2.40/4.00 or above in 12 credit hours of academic courses.

Previous healthcare experience is helpful, but not required.

Final consideration for acceptance will be made by the Surgical Technology Admissions Committee. Each applicant will be reviewed on an individual basis. Exceptions to the stated requirements may be made at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

### Admissions Process

1. Request an application for admission from the Office of Admissions or apply online free.
2. Send the completed application, along with the required non-refundable application fee of \$20, to the Office of Admissions.
3. Have an official copy of your high school transcript showing class rank and ACT or SAT results sent to the Office of Admissions. Transcripts are considered official only when they are sent directly from the school and have a school seal or signature of a school official.
4. If you did not finish high school, have your high school transcript sent in addition to your GED test score results.
5. If you have attended post-secondary institutions, submit an official transcript from each institution attended. Transcripts are considered official only when they are sent directly from the institution and have the seal or signature of an official.
6. If you have been in military service, submit a copy of your complete DD214 military discharge form.

### Clinical Experience Requirements

To ensure the safety of self and others, clinical students are required to complete a variety of activities prior to working with patients on a clinical unit:

- Submit proof of currency in CPR Certification for Health Professionals
- Submit a completed health history and physical examination form
- Provide documentation of immunizations, including Hepatitis status
- Submit a negative TB skin test each year
- Sign confidentiality forms
- Annually complete drug testing
- Annually undergo a background check, which includes criminal history, driving history and Office of Inspector General's list of excluded individuals
- Meet technical standards related to: observation, communication, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, motor skills, behavioral and social attributes
- Attend orientation and compliance sessions as required by clinical facilities

The cost of the above activities is at the student's own expense.

Affiliating agencies may withhold clinical experiences for students with the following records:

- Positive drug screening
- Crimes against the person such as battery or assault
- Crimes based on dishonesty or untruthfulness such as theft or embezzlement
- Drug and other substance abuse related crimes
- History of recent DUI or other driving violations/penalties

Without clinical experiences, the student cannot complete all aspects of the program and will be dismissed from the program.

### Financial Aid

Financial aid is available in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. More than 95 percent of undergraduate students receive financial assistance; most receive more than one type of aid. Early Estimator packages are available for dependent students during the fall at [www.sf.edu/financialaid](http://www.sf.edu/financialaid).

All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority deadline is no later than March 10.

### For More Information

Call the Office of Admissions at 260-399-8000 or 1-800-729-4732, or visit our website at [www.sf.edu](http://www.sf.edu).