



Surgical Technology Core Performance Standards

The **Surgical Technology Program** at SVSTI prepares and educates students to become entry-level Surgical Technologists in operating rooms. The profession's scope of practice requires demonstrating responsibilities and accountability within the role, as well as the competencies expected of a surgical technologist. It is important to note that the profession of surgical technologist is one that is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. Indicated below are several examples of the scope of practice, roles, and competencies that will be encountered.

SVSTI is committed to providing reasonable accommodation in its academic programs to qualified individuals with disabilities, including, but not limited to, those with learning disabilities. A reasonable accommodation is one that does not require a fundamental alteration to the nature of the Surgical Technology Program or lower academic and/or clinical standards.

Throughout the Surgical Technology Program, students must be able to perform in a reasonably independent and timely manner that does not affect the quality of care, the safety of patients or other individuals, and in a way that does not adversely affect SVSTI, clinical affiliates, or any member of the healthcare team.

Students must possess aptitude and abilities in six areas: sensory skills; fine and gross motor skills; strength, mobility, and physical endurance; communication, comprehension, reading, and writing in English; behavioral stability; and cognitive ability and critical thinking.

It is the student's responsibility to understand the duties, skills, and abilities required of a surgical technologist. In addition to the technical standards described below, students are encouraged to review the information regarding surgical technologists at [Surgical Technology \(svsti.com\)](http://svsti.com).

The following list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather provides examples of required activities. Students are encouraged to review the standards carefully; if they have any questions or concerns, they should discuss them with the Chief Academic Director of SVSTI.

Core Performance Standards

- The ability to stand and sit for extended periods of time in one location with minimal to no breaks.
- The ability to bend, twist, or move around repeatedly or over time without tiring.
- The ability to lift, carry, and/or move objects weighing over 20 pounds.
- The ability to refrain from nourishment or restroom breaks for periods of up to six hours.
- Demonstrate sufficient visual ability to load a fine (10-0) suture onto needles and needle holders with/without corrective lenses and while wearing eye protection.
- Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function while in the sterile surgical environment.
- Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips and within 20 feet.
- Hear activation/warning signals on equipment.

- The ability to detect odors sufficient to maintain environmental safety and patient needs.
- Ambulate/move around without assistive devices.
- The ability to assist with and/or lift, move, position, and manipulate the patient who is unconscious with or without assistive devices.
- The ability to effectively communicate with others, both verbally and in writing.
- Possess short- and long-term memory sufficient to perform tasks such as, but not limited to, mentally tracking surgical supplies and performing anticipation skills intraoperatively. The ability to retain information.
- The ability to make appropriate judgment decisions.
- Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills under stress.
- Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in emergencies.
- Exhibit positive interpersonal skills during patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
- Perform all Lab and clinical skills within a pre-established timeframe that ensures safe patient care.
- Manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment with speed, dexterity, and good eye-hand coordination using assistive devices (having the ability to work quickly and safely in emergent situations is VERY important).
- To be free of reportable communicable diseases and chemical abuse.

_____ (Initial) I understand and acknowledge the above requirements, and accept these standards.

_____ (Initial) I understand that I must be able to retain information during the Surgical Technology Program and in the field.

_____ (Initial) I understand that I must submit any accommodations needed at the time of Admissions/Enrollment.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

SVSTI Official Signature: _____ Date: _____