

SVSTI Surgical Technology
Student Handbook



Volume I

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WELCOME!!!

Welcome to the Silicon Valley Surgi-Tech Institute Surgical Technology Program. You have chosen a program in which you will stretch your abilities to reach your fullest potential as a Surgical Technologist. We know the effort that went into your decision and the work that will be required to complete this program. The faculty is ready and willing to assist you in achieving your goals. We recognize that individuals may have unique and varying needs, capabilities, and experiences. The key to success lies in the recognition by each individual of any learning areas that may need improvement, and in assuming responsibility for strengthening any deficiency. SVSTI has numerous resources to assist you including help with study habits, test-taking skills, increasing reading skills, and time management.

Number of credits required for program completion

Surgical Technology Certificate Program

You will need to pass each Surgical Tech course with a 70% or higher to continue to the next course. Please see the following:

Surgical Technology Certificate Program

Credit Hours

ST1/ST111 31 Credit Hours

352 Lecture Hours

144 Lab Hours

Total Hours= 496 Hours

ST2/ST222 29 Credit Hours

336 Lecture Hours

160 Lab Hours

Total= 480 Hours

ST3/ST333 40 Credit Hours

160 Lecture Hours (including CST Prep which is required)

480 Clinical Hours

Total= 640 Hours

Total Credit Hours for Certificate Program = 1616 Hours

100 Credit Hours

Externship Rotation minimum Requirements

The distribution of the 120 procedures is as follows:

General Surgery cases (minimum of 30 cases)

A. Students must complete a minimum on 30 cases in General Surgery, 20 which must be performed in the First Scrub Role. The remaining 10 cases may be performed in either First or Second Scrub Role.

Specialty Cases (minimum of 90 cases)

B Students must complete a minimum of 90 cases in various surgical specialties excluding General Surgery; 60 which must be performed in the First Scrub Role. The additional 30 cases may be performed in either the First or Second Scrub Role.

a. A minimum of 60 surgical specialty cases must be performed in the First Scrub Role and distributed amongst a minimum of four surgical specialties.

(1) A minimum of 10 cases in the First Scrub Role must be completed in each of the required minimum of four surgical specialties (40 cases total required).

(2) The additional 20 cases in the First Scrub Role may be distributed amongst any one surgical specialty or multiple surgical specialties.

b. The remaining 30 surgical specialty case may be performed in surgical specialty either in the First or Second Role.

Optional Surgical Specialties

1. Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory. However, up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases ad 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted toward the maximum number of Second Scrub Role cases.

a. Diagnostic Endoscopy cases must be documented in the category of "Diagnostic Endoscopy", rather than by specialty.

b. Vaginal delivery cases must be documented in the category of: "Labor & Delivery" rather than in the OB/GYN specialty.

Case Experience in the Second Scrub Role is not mandatory.

Observation cases must be documented, but do not count towards the 120 required cases.

Cases will be counted and documented according to surgical specialty (exception being diagnostic endoscopic cases).

All student activities associated with the curriculum, especially while students are completing clinical rotations, will be educational in nature. Students will not be substituted for hired staff personnel within the clinical institution, in the capacity of a surgical technologist.

Certification Exam

SVSTI requires each and every student to participate in the Certification Prep class during the program and after externship to graduate from the program. We want to ensure every student is successful in passing their certification exam and require this as part of the curriculum.

Attendance Policy for Surgical Technology Lab

It is very crucial for every student to attend every class as SVSTI's Surgical Technology Program is an advanced fast paced course. You are allowed only 3 absences of lab each 16-week term with the exception of Clinical rotation where you are only allowed 2 absences for emergencies. Please save these absences for true emergencies as life happens and we never know when we might need them.

Please note that all 48 days each term are a part of the overall grade. It counts for 10% of your grade as it is important to be present to learn the skills needed to be successful.

If a student has more than 3 absences in a term, they will be subject to a letter grade drop. 5 absences will get you dropped from the Program.

If a student obtains 3 tardies in a term that will count as 1 absence.

Graduation Requirements

- Must receive a minimum of 70% or higher for program.
 - Must complete all requirements with student success.
 - Must pay tuition on time in order to be placed on externship and graduate on time.
 - All required cases/hours at the appointed facilities for externship must be completed successfully and documents turned in signed.
 - Must complete all required coursework on the online platform.
 - Must complete and pass the final exam with a score of 70% or higher.
- Must obtain to the Attendance Policy, Externship Policy and any other policy signed

SVSTI

Surgical Technology Program Pre-Enrollment Criteria

To enroll in the SVSTI Surgical Technologist program, **the following steps are required:**

STEP 1

1. Completion of a Sterile Processing Technology Course or pre-approved Sterile Processing work experience and certification
2. Timed Entrance Exam - this is given on campus
3. Written Essay (found on our website)
4. TWO professional Reference Letters (found on our website)
5. Interview with SVSTI Program Director

STEP 2 - Bring the following:

1. COMPLETED Surg-Tech enrollment packet (found on our website)
2. Your high school transcript OR diploma OR GED certificate
3. A driver's license OR California State ID
4. Request for a Payment Plan OR (notification of payment in accordance with the following)

Once your documents have been received, and you are formally accepted into the Surg-Tech program, you will receive an acceptance letter (email) from our Program Director. At that time, you will have THREE business days to make your payment in full OR pay your \$800.00 deposit in accordance with your PRE-APPROVED payment plan.

STUDENT'S RIGHT TO CANCEL: You have the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges minus registration fee paid through attendance at the 14th calendar day of first class session ___/___/___ (date). The \$100 nonrefundable registration fee will not be refunded if canceled.

Cancellation occurs when you give written notice of cancellation. You can do this by mail, in person, by fax or email.

SVSTI shall pay a refund within 45 days of a student's written cancellation or withdrawal. SVSTI shall refund 100 percent of the amount paid for tuition for Surgical Technology Program, less a \$100 registration fee if cancellation is made through attendance at the end of the business day of the 14th calendar day of the start date. Cancellation must be made in a letter in person, email or a certified letter sent to SVSTI.

If the student wishes to cancel, Cengage eBook is nonrefundable the fee is \$180 paid by student prior to orientation for the Surgical Technology Program is nonrefundable. Refunds for items of extra expense to the student, such as books, tools or other supplies should be handled separately from refund of tuition and other academic fees.

TOTAL SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE TUITION= \$18800.00+ \$247 NBSTSA certification exam + eBooks \$179.99 = \$19,226.99 (only \$18,800 will be paid to SVSTI).

The STRF as of Feb. 8, 2021 is \$0.50 for every \$1000 paid. (nonrefundable). There are no additional institutional charges or fees.

Additional Charges for the Surgical Technology Program

- \$179.00 for Cengage eBooks & MindTap unlimited access for a year (so be sure to not purchase too early) This will be bought a day before or the day of orientation by the student. Students in the degree program will need the 2-year unlimited Cengage instead of the 1-year which is \$239.99.
- \$247.00 for AST Membership, Study Guide, and Exam (This will need to be paid before Externship).
- Immunizations or any other requirements required per clinical site such as Drug testing and/or background.
- Student is responsible for black scrubs (can purchase OR hat if prefer over disposable)

STUDENT ID BADGE

The student photo identification badge and lanyard provided by SVSTI should be worn during all times on campus and at clinical sites. Replacement badges can be obtained by contacting SVSTI administrative staff. The replacement cost of the Badge and Lanyard is \$20.00.

Certification Prep & Externship for Surgical Technology

1. Every student will be required to come to campus for four weeks (days and times TBD) for Certification Prep class either at the end of 3rd term or after externship rotation (depending on the entire class's status of required cases) If a student does not participate in prep they will receive a zero for the term and need to repeat term 3.
2. All students are required to take the Certification exam on a scheduled date and if you do not participate you will receive an F for the Program and not graduate.
3. All externship paperwork will be sent via screen shot or email of the weekly required paperwork by Friday at 5pm. If they are not sent you will be pulled from the site until further notice.
4. If payments are not made during term 3 the student will be pulled from the site and will not be returning until payments are made or until 2 absences have been taken (If the site does not allow you to return you will be dropped from the program).
5. Refer the Externship Policy & Payment Plan Policy for externship attendance and details on notifying Program Director for any absences and/or leaving early.

Student Work Policy

All student activities associated with clinical externship must be educational in nature. Students cannot substitute for paid personnel and will not receive any monetary benefits while at the clinical site.

Immunization / Medical Screening Requirements

These requirements are based on the California State Department of Health Services recommendations and clinical facility requirements. You must complete the following immunizations and provide documentation to the Program Director. Most clinical sites require a TITER draw to determine your antibody immunity. If you are no longer immune you must receive the necessary immunization or booster.

Proof of TITERS must be received prior to externship placement.

- 1. Tetanus / Diphtheria / Whooping Cough (TDaP)** - Must present proof of vaccination within 10 years. If no proof – a booster is required
- 2. Mantoux Test (PPD)** – Two-step PPD test is required OR Gold Interferon testing (best option)
 - a. PPD antigen is injected; student **must have area read 3 days after injection**
 - b. If negative, a second PPD antigen is injected **under the skin 4 days later**
 - c. If positive, a chest x-ray will be taken. If negative, testing is complete. **DO NOT** have an x-ray until 1 month before externship
- 3. Measles / Mumps / Rubella** – Titer is required, with numerical lab values
 - Titer results must be turned into the Program Director
 - If no immunity, immunization is required
- 4. Hepatitis B** – Titer is required, with numerical lab values
 - Titer results must be turned into the Program Director
 - If no immunity, immunization is required

Students Must complete 2 of 3 immunizations in series BEFORE start of externship

- 5. Varicella (chicken pox)** – Titer is required, with numerical lab values
 - Titer results must be turned into the Program Director
 - If no immunity, immunization is required
- 6. Physical** - a complete pre-work physical **MUST** be completed. This may be a simple note from your Physician releasing you to be in good health for externship
- 7. CPR** – Students **MUST** show proof of current BLS (Healthcare CPR) certification prior to externship (SVSTI WILL provide the CPR course to students)
- 8. Influenza** – Vaccination required **DURING FLU SEASON**

NEEDLE STICK PROTOCOLS

Always Observe Standard/Universal Precautions

However,

Should you suffer a needle stick or any blood/body fluid exposure, immediately notify your preceptor. Do not be embarrassed, and do not wait. Drug prophylaxis following a high-risk exposure is time sensitive. Seek immediate help.

Scrub out, and immediately clean the wound/exposure site with liberal amounts of soap and water.

Exposed oral and nasal mucosa should be decontaminated by vigorous flushing with water.

Exposed eyes should be irrigated with copious amounts of clean water or sterile saline.

Follow all facility protocols, including reporting of the incident to the facility's Employee Health Service.

If the facility has not already drawn patient blood, then they will need to do so before the patient is released from the facility. Once the patient has been released from the facility, he/she is under no obligation to return to have their blood drawn.

Once facility protocols have been met, you must contact the Program Director, Julie Hamrick, and immediately return to the campus in order to fill out the Student Accident paperwork. This paperwork is time sensitive and must be filled out the same day with no exceptions.

Julie Hamrick, Program Director

408-640-2991 (cell).

LAB RULES

- **NO PHONES**- Phones remain in classroom on vibrate, unless otherwise arranged with instructor(s). **NO** pictures or video taken unless approved by instructor(s).
- Besides our morning or evening “huddle”, **no one** is outside the lab until the instructors have dismissed you.
- If you come in with improper attire, e.g. no scrubs, wearing nail polish, false lashes etc. You **WILL** leave for the day and it will count against your absences.
- Instructor(s) always oversee music.
- Instructor(s) oversee the Patient info on white boards.
- **NO** smoking or vaping on premises.
- You are tardy **1 minute** after the start of the class, the door will be locked at **5 minutes**, and if you are not here, you are absent.
- No side talk in your native language.
- **No foul language!** If you cuss, you will owe the class treats.
- **Tuesday** is your vocabulary test. You are given 50 words on Canvas and are tested on 25.
- **Wednesday** is your chapter test.
- **Thursday** are lab evals and CST prep.
- **NO**, the days cannot be changed. **No**, I will not tell you what words you are being tested on. **No, there is no makeup work. It is due on it is due date.**
- All papers must have your name, the date, the week AND be legible! If I cannot read it, I cannot correct it, and it **WILL** be marked wrong.
- Questions are welcomed **BUT** arguing **will not** be tolerated. You **will** be asked to leave and will take an absence for the day.
- If you do not participate in teamwork and pulling your own weight you will be assigned a SSP (Student Success Plan). Once you receive 3 SSP's you can be dropped from the program or put on Probation. Once on probation there is no more chances.

STUDENT LAB SAFETY & MAINTENANCE POLICY

Safety of self and others is the primary concern in the laboratory setting. To ensure the safety of students and faculty in the laboratory, students are expected to follow the policies and procedures for Lab Safety & Maintenance in the SVSTI Academic Catalog. Students are encouraged to expand their skills through safe practice. Demonstration of critical safety elements by faculty is required prior to any student being allowed to use any equipment. Students will be required to demonstrate appropriate safety with all equipment, techniques, and procedures in the laboratory prior to practicing as patients or clinicians.

General Lab Safety Rules and Policies:

1. No long sleeves are allowed under scrub tops.
2. No bulky/large/chunky jewelry. Simple necklaces and post earrings are allowed.
3. No rings or bracelets of any kind.
4. No hats of any kind are allowed in lab.
5. Minimal makeup is allowed.
6. No fake (Gel or Acrylic) nails. Nails should be short, natural color without polish.
7. Beards must be kept trimmed
8. Good personal hygiene must always be kept.
9. Students will be responsible for sterilizing items.
10. Students will be responsible for keeping towels in hampers and folding clean ones.
11. Students will be responsible for letting their instructor or Program Director know when an item needs to be reordered.
12. Any accidents, injuries, or unexpected responses to intervention or skills being practices should be immediately reported to the lab instructor.
13. Students must report any unsafe situations to staff or faculty immediately.
14. Though every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is functioning properly, students must notify the instructor of any broken or malfunctioning equipment.
15. Absolutely no cell phones can be use during instruction time. If you are seen using your phone one during class your instructor will ask you to put it away. If you have it out a second time, your instructor has the right to send you home for the day.
16. You are considered tardy at 1 min past the start of class time. You will also be considered tardy if you leave class early. Weekly lab evaluations cannot be made up. Door will be locked 5 minutes after start of class.
17. Students are only allowed in Lab when an instructor is present.
18. No open toed shoes are allowed in lab.
19. Teamwork is expected.

Technology Attestation Requirements

By signing this document, I am agreeing that I have the required access to a computer and the minimum recommended system requirements to successfully complete the distance educational program.

Canvas recommended requirements:

- Smart device, PC, laptop, iPad etc. that is 5 years old or newer with at least 1 GB of RAM.
- Web browser success
- Internet speed of 512 Kbps or faster

Cengage (Surgical Technology only) recommended requirements:

- Download bandwidth 5 Mbps or faster
- 2 GB of RAM or more
- Sound
- Graphics 64 MB or higher
- CPU 1.8 GHz or more

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____

SVSTI Faculty Member: _____ Date: _____