

Surgical Technology Interview Guide

Common Interview Questions & Tips

1. Tell me about yourself.

- *Tip:* Share your education, certifications (e.g., CST), clinical experiences, and interest in surgical technology.
- *Example:* "I'm a Certified Surgical Technologist with hands-on experience in orthopedic and general surgery procedures. I take pride in maintaining sterile environments and assisting efficiently in high-pressure situations."

2. Why did you choose a career in surgical technology?

- *Tip:* Be honest and passionate. Mention what draws you to the OR environment.
- *Example:* "I've always been interested in healthcare and anatomy. I chose surgical technology because I enjoy being an essential part of the surgical team and contributing to patient care behind the scenes."

3. How do you handle the stress of working in the operating room?

- *Tip:* Highlight your ability to stay calm, focused, and professional under pressure.
- *Example:* "I stay grounded by focusing on my role and responsibilities. I double-check instruments, maintain open communication, and rely on training and teamwork."

4. Describe a time when you had to respond quickly in the OR.

- *Tip:* Use the STAR method to explain the Situation, Task, Action, and Result.
- *Example:* "During a laparoscopic procedure, a piece of equipment malfunctioned. I quickly retrieved the backup and ensured the surgeon could continue without delay."

5. How do you ensure proper sterilization of instruments?

- *Tip:* Emphasize knowledge of protocols, attention to detail, and responsibility.

- *Example:* "I strictly follow sterilization protocols, including biological indicators and proper loading of autoclaves. I also verify that each instrument is clean, functional, and properly packaged."

6. What would you do if a surgeon becomes difficult or upset during a procedure?

- *Tip:* Show emotional intelligence, professionalism, and focus on patient safety.
- *Example:* "I remain calm and continue doing my job efficiently. I understand the stress surgeons are under and aim to be a steady, reliable part of the team."

7. How do you handle conflicts with other surgical team members?

- *Tip:* Demonstrate teamwork and communication skills.
- *Example:* "I address issues respectfully and professionally, often one-on-one. If needed, I involve the supervisor to resolve conflicts without disrupting patient care."

8. What types of surgeries have you assisted with?

- *Tip:* Be specific and honest. Mention specialties you're comfortable with.
- *Example:* "I have experience with general surgery, OB/GYN, and orthopedic procedures, including total knee replacements and laparoscopic cholecystectomies."

9. How do you stay current with advancements in surgical technology?

- *Tip:* Mention continuing education, certifications, and professional organizations.
- *Example:* "I attend workshops, subscribe to surgical tech journals, and maintain my CST certification through continuing education."

10. Do you have any questions for us?

- *Tip:* Always ask questions that show your interest and professionalism.
- *Example Questions:*
 - "What are the most common procedures performed here?"
 - "How do new surgical techs receive training and orientation?"

- "Can you describe the dynamic of the surgical team here?"
-

Final Tips:

- Dress professionally, even for clinical or working interviews.
- Bring copies of your resume, certifications, and references.
- Practice answering questions out loud.
- Always follow up with a thank-you email or note.