Surgical Technology Program

Information

Fall 2025

Contents

Surgical Technology

Thank you for your interest in the Surgical Technology Program at the College of the Mainland (COM).

Surgical Technology is an allied health career that is interesting, diverse, and demanding. The field of surgical technology is expanding at a rapid rate, and the need for skilled surgical technologists is growing. The Program is designed to help you develop the knowledge and skills required to perform as an entry-level surgical technologist.

The Surgical Technology education program will be demanding but rewarding. You will be challenged to change your approach to learning. You will learn both science and the art of Surgical Technology, and you will learn about problem solving.

Graduates of the Program can expect to earn an average salary of $34,937 to $63,817 annually. According to https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/ , the median salary for surgical techs in Texas is $60,070, which is lower than the national median. In our region, it is expected forecasted an 18% growth in surgical technology employment in Texas through 2030.

Graduates from the Program will be eligible to sit for the National Board of Surgical Technology/Surgical Assistant certification (NBSTSA) exam.

The program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The Surgical Technology Program has applied for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)(https://www.caahep.org/) which is a programmatic accrediting body and ARC/STSA one the largest programmatic Accreditor of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting programs (https://arcstsa.org/).

Program Mission Statement
College of the Mainland Surgical Technology Program is a learning-centered, comprehensive community college dedicated to student success and the intellectual and economic enrichment of the diverse communities we serve.

Program Goals
- Student Graduation Rate- 70% for all graduates
- CST™ Exam Participation- 100% for all graduates
- CST™ Pass Rate-70% for all graduates
- Graduate Job Placement- 80% for all graduates
- Employer Survey Return Rate- 50% for all surveys sent to employers.
- Employer Satisfaction Rate- 85% for all employees who returned the survey.
- Graduate Survey Return Rate- 50% for all surveys sent to graduates.
- Graduate Satisfaction-85% for all graduates who return the survey.

Program Learning Outcomes
- Apply critical thinking skills necessary for safe and effective practices needed as a Surgical Technologist.

- Demonstrate the ability to practice independent clinical judgments under the supervision of the surgeon or Registered Nurse.
- Adhere to the recognized scope of practice in providing optimal patient care.

Learn More

To learn more about surgical technology, please visit the https://www.ast.org/ and https://arcstsa.org/ webpages.

Program Course Schedule:

The program is one (1) year (3 semesters) in length and begins in August 2025. A limited number of students are selected each year through a selective application process.

Prerequisite Courses

Course ID	Name	Credit Hours
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
HITT 1305	Medical Terminology I	3
SPCH 1318	Interpersonal Communication	3
PSYC 2301or PSYC 2314	General Psychology or Lifespan Growth & Development	3

Fall Semester 1

Course ID	Name	SCH
SRGT 1505	Introduction to Surgical Technology • Orientation to surgical technology theory, surgical pharmacology and anesthesia, technological sciences, and patient care concepts.	5
SRGT 1509	Fundamentals of Perioperative Concepts and Techniques • In-depth coverage of perioperative concepts such as aseptic principles and practices, infectious processes, wound healing, and creation and maintenance of the sterile field.	5
SRGT 1260	Clinical I • A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.	2
* BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II • Anatomy and Physiology II is the second part of a two-course sequence. It is a study of the structure and function of the human body including the following systems: endocrine, cardiovascular, immune, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive (including nutrition), urinary (including fluid and electrolyte balance), and reproductive (including human development and genetics). Emphasis is on interrelationships among systems and regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis.	4

Spring Semester 2

Course ID	Name	SCH
SRGT 1244	Technological Sciences for the Surgical Technologist • Specialized surgical modalities covered include endoscopy, microsurgery, therapeutic surgical energies, and other integrated science technologies.	2
SRGT 1441	Surgical Procedures I • Introduction to surgical pathology and its relationship to surgical procedures. Emphasis on surgical procedures related to the general, OB/GYN, genitourinary, otorhinolaryngology, and orthopedic surgical specialties incorporating instruments, equipment, and supplies required for safe patient care.	5
SRGT 1360	Clinical II • A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.	3
*BIOL 2420	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors • This course covers basic microbiology and immunology and is primarily directed at pre-nursing, pre-allied health, and non-science majors. It introduces historical concepts of the nature of microorganisms, microbial diversity, the importance of microorganisms and acellular agents in the biosphere, and their roles in human and animal diseases. Major topics include bacterial structure, growth, physiology, genetics, and biochemistry of microorganisms. Emphasis is on medical microbiology, infectious diseases, and public health.	4

Summer Semester

Course ID	Name	SCH
SRGT 1542	Surgical Procedures II • Introduction to surgical pathology and its relationship to surgical procedures. Emphasis on surgical procedures related to the cardiothoracic, peripheral vascular, plastic/reconstructive, ophthalmology, oral/maxillofacial, and neurological surgical specialties incorporating instruments, equipment, and supplies required for safe patient care.	5
SRGT 2130	Professional Readiness • Overview of professional readiness for employment, attaining certification, and maintaining certification status.	2
SRGT 1460	Clinical III • A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.	4
*PHIL 2306	Introduction to Ethics • The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.	3

*These are General Education courses and are required to graduate from the program. These may be taken as prerequisites.

Program Costs

Estimated program costs are:

In-District Tuition (60 Credit Hours) x $77.00	$4,620.00
CPR Training American Heart	$70.00
Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening	$95.00
Uniform (scrubs, lab coat, misc.)	$ 150.00
Physical/Exam/Immunizations/Titers	$ 300.00
Required Textbooks (for the entire program)	$ 1,115.00
Trajecsys	$ 150.00
My Clinical Exchange	$ 39.50
SurgiReal Lab Kit	$ 110.00
Parking fees at clinical sites	$ 45.00
Surgical Packs	$ 150.00
Online Mock CST Exams	$179.00
Gold Student Exam Bundle Package	$247.00
Total cost	**$ 7,168.50**

There may be additional fees for clinical site onboarding, and this is site dependent.

Upon successful graduation from the program, students are eligible to sit for the NBSTSA certification exam. Registration cost is approximately $247. Upon successful completion of the CST exam, the surgical technologists may use the credentials of CST behind their name and be eligible to work in the state of Texas as a certified surgical technologist.

Technical Standards

The Technical Standards and Essential Functions that are expected in the field of Surgical Technology will be task, duties, and responsibilities that comprise the means of an entry level position through classroom instruction, laboratory skill practice, and clinical experience. The students will be provided with theoretical knowledge of the surgical environment and will help develop skills necessary to prepare supplies and equipment, to maintain aseptic conditions, and to assist surgeons and the surgical team passing instrumentation during surgical operations. While any student may apply for and be accepted to the program, all clinical facilities have the right to refuse clinical rotations to any student for whom they feel the standards cannot be met.

Accomplish the mental and concentration demands of working in the surgical setting.

- Concentrate / work effectively for extended periods amidst ongoing distractions.
- Learn and retain new information.
- Apply theoretical concepts underlying the clinical practice of surgical technology.
- Assume responsibility for one's actions and the patient's needs during surgery.
- Gather, analyze, and correctly interpret information from surgeons' preference cards related to patient care.

Communicate effectively in handwritten, electronic, and verbal modes (in person or on phone).
- Communicate in English effectively and professionally with patients and their families, medical staff and providers, co-workers.

- o To provide information regarding the exam and related patient education.
- o Confirm the identity of the patient and explain exam procedures to reduce anxieties and obtain patient cooperation.
- o Assess the patient's condition by asking questions and listening to and responding to inquiries.
- o Explain and direct the patient to the breathing instructions required for an exam.
- Maintain accurate records/documentation, including the ability to fill out patient histories on requisition forms and other written communications in an understandable fashion.

Professionalism

- Adhere to national, organizational, and departmental standards, protocols, policies and procedures regarding technology; established practice standards of the profession.
- Respect for the patient's right to privacy and confidentiality within HIPPA requirements.
- Perform safe, ethical, and legal practices.
- Practices aseptic techniques for patient's surgical procedures pre-operatively and intra-operatively.
- Provide patient-centered, clinically effective care for all patients regardless of age, gender, disability, special needs, ethnicity, or culture.
- Adapt to changes and varying clinical situations by applying critical thinking skills and professional judgment to organize and complete multiple tasks accurately and within an assigned time that will improve the surgical outcome.
- Work within a clinical environment, which involves exposure to persons with physical and mental disabilities, and to pain, death, stress, communicable diseases, blood, and body fluids, toxic substances, and noxious odors.
- Respects cultural variations and provides patient care and service free from bias or discrimination.
- Comprehension
  - o The ability to understand and follow basic instructions and guidelines.
  - o The ability to understand, remember, and communicate routine information.
  - o The ability to understand complex problems and collaborate and explore alternative solutions.

Vision and Hearing

- Read typewritten, handwritten, and computer information.
- To recognize emergency situations such as adverse reactions to medication administrations, breathing difficulty, and cardiac arrest.
- To detect, interpret and appropriately respond to non-verbal communication, acoustic generated signals from monitors during surgical procedures.
- Communicate effectively with all health care team members. These skills include verbal, written, and non-verbal abilities consistent with effective communication throughout surgical procedures.
- To be able to see and hear correct judgments regarding patient conditions for the purpose of demonstrating competence to safely engage in the practice of surgical technology.

Physical (stamina, manual dexterity, and agility factors)

- Stamina to stand or walk throughout the workday (8 to 10 hours) with and without radiation safety devices on, such as a lead apron.
- Stand, stoop, bend, balance, twist, and reach/grasp in front of body, to sides of body and below knees. Reach above shoulder and head to pull the surgical equipment off shelves and carts.
- Bending body downward and forward by bending spine to aid in patient transfer and lifting patients from one position to another.
- The ability to walk within a small, confined area so that sterile trays will not be disturbed.
- Moderate strength is required to frequently lift and carry 20-50 pounds routinely from one location to another. Includes items such as instrument sets, stretchers, and other surgical devices.
- Manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination to pass surgical instruments during surgical procedures. Operate special surgical equipment brought in by company sales representatives to use in certain surgical teams.

Prerequisite Course Requirements:

Students who meet the qualification requirements for admission to the College of the Mainland can apply to the Radiologic Technology program once the prerequisite requirements are completed. The minimum grade accepted is a "C".

Below is a list of the minimum *prerequisite* course requirements to apply to the Radiologic Technology program:

- ENGL 1301 (Composition I)
- BIOL 2401 (Anatomy and Physiology I)
- HITT 1305 (Medical Terminology I
- SPCH 1318 (Interpersonal Communication)

*Students will be required to complete these classes while in the program
- BIOL 2402 (Anatomy & Physiology)
- BIOL 2420 (Microbiology for Non-Science Majors)
- PHIL 2306 (Introduction to Ethics)

* A student may complete these courses before entering the program with a grade of C or higher.

*GPA for selection criteria is based on prerequisite courses.

*These are General Education courses and are required to graduate from the program. These may be taken as prerequisites.

Official transcripts will be reviewed by Admissions and Records.   Please review COM's transcript evaluation process and timeframe.

Students may use CLEP scores for any prerequisite courses that COM approves of. The acceptable scores are:

- 72-80 = A
- 64-71 = B

- 50-70 = C

Any score under 50 will not be accepted. An official transcript of the CLEP score must accompany the application or be sent to the Program Director via email at the time of application submission.

Immunizations
All immunizations are paid for by the student.

All students must provide proof of immunizations for:

Immunization	Requirements	Explanation
Hepatitis B	Complete Series	Must provide official documentation of receiving complete vaccination series. • 3 dose series is required to be completed within 8 months. • 2 dose series (Heplisav-B) is required to be completed over 2 months.
Varicella	2 doses OR positive titer	Must provide official documentation of receiving two doses of the Varicella vaccination given at least 28 days apart OR titer confirming immunity.
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses OR positive titer	Must provide official documentation of receiving two MMR vaccinations given at least 28 days apart OR titers confirming immunity.
TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis	1 dose	Must provide official documentation of receiving one TDAP vaccination given within the past 8 years.

After program acceptance, the student must provide:
- Yearly influenza
- Yearly negative TB screening (this may be through a skin test or blood test).
- COVID vaccine*
- A titer is a blood test that demonstrates immunity.
- Proof of these items must be an official shot record and/or lab result (school records are not acceptable).
- Vaccination reporting - All documentation must include student's name, facility name administering vaccine, and date vaccine was administered.
- Titer reporting – All documentation must include the student's name, lab name, lab results, and date of the results.

All documentation must be uploaded in PDF format. Images are not accepted.

- If a potential student has contracted Varicella in the past, and has a positive titer result, then this is acceptable for immunization purposes.
- If a potential student is a non-converter for any immunization/titer results, the student must provide proof of immunization, proof of second immunization, and proof of negative titer after second immunization, and a letter from your physician stating you are a non-converter. Upload all documentation with your application.

*College of the Mainland does not require COVID Vaccinations to attend classes; however, many of our affiliated clinical sites may mandate COVID Vaccinations. Some of them will accept an exemption for medical or religious beliefs. It is the discretion of the clinical site if you qualify for one of these exemptions. In each case, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the specific clinical site exemption paperwork and submit it directly to them. A copy of the approved exemption must be submitted to the program for the student's file.

HESI Admission Assessment

The student must take an entrance exam called the HESI A2 Admission Assessment.   This is to assess applications of skills and abilities in core educational subjects. Studies have shown that entrance exam results are linked to how well a student will perform during their first year of school, as well as measuring outcomes for success and completion of the program.

Students can submit up to 3 HESI transcripts with the application. The highest score in each category will be utilized for application scoring purposes. Students may take the HESI exam twice a quarter of an hour. Contact the Testing Center for more information on the testing process. Any transcript over 3 years old will not be accepted.

Score at least 75% or greater on each of the following sections of the HESI A2:
- Math
- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Anatomy and Physiology

* NOTE: 75% or greater must be achieved in each individual section, not the Cumulative Score.

Students can request transcripts in several ways:
- HESI A2 exams taken at COM Testing Center
- Applicants will need to fill out the Testing Center's HESI A2 Transcript Request form.

HESI A2 exams taken at any other Testing Center venue:
- Applicants must go to Evolve and log in using your username and password.
- Click on HESI Transcripts on the bottom right of the screen page. Download the HESI Transcript Request Form.
- Follow the directions on the form to return the document to Elsevier.
- Please be aware that it takes 7-10 business days to process the transcript form.

Prior Experience:

If you have medical field work experience. You may use this information to increase your application rankings.

You will be asked to upload:
- Job title
- Employer name
- Contact Person
- Contact Person Phone
- Contact Person Email
- Dates of Employment

- Full-time or Part-time

We must have an actual employer, not a friend you might have worked with. We will only be confirming employment in the position you documented; no other information will be asked for. You are not required to submit this information; however, no ranking points will be given for unverified work experience.

You may upload two (2) job-related experiences.

Medical experience includes Sterile Processing Technician, Surgical Operating Room Attendant, Patient Transporter, CNA, MA, LVN, LPN, RN, Paramedic, EMT, Phlebotomist.

Residency:

If you live in the COM district (and have at least 12 months prior to program application), you may use this information to increase your application ranking. To be a legal resident of the College of the Mainland District, a person must reside in the Dickinson, Hitchcock, La Marque, Santa Fe or Texas City school districts.

Video:

Please submit a 2-minute video introducing yourself to the Program Coordinator, and why you are pursuing a career in Surgical Technology.

Prerequisite courses:

- If you complete your prerequisite classes at COM (the classes used on your application), you may use this information to increase your application ranking. There are three (3) general education courses within the program that are required to be completed to graduate. If these courses (BIOL 2402- Anatomy & Physiology), (BIOL 2420- Microbiology for Non-Science Majors), (PHIL 2306- Introduction to Ethics) are completed at the time of application, you may use this information to increase your application ranking.

Other Program Requirements:

Students must have a current **American Heart Association (AHA) BLS** certification by the first day of class. This must not expire while in the program. COM offers these courses.

Students must provide a copy of their personal health insurance by the first day of class. This must be maintained during the program and must not lapse.

Students must have access to a reliable computer with a camera and audio capabilities for testing and assignments.

Students must have reliable transportation to clinical facilities. Students must travel to any clinical facility used by the program, and no special consideration is given to clinical placement.

Students will also need to provide a copy of their driver's license, Identity card, or I9 documentation by the first day of class.

Students will be required to submit a random drug test and background screening after they are accepted into the program.

Graduation Requirement:

Before a degree is conferred, students must have:

- Completed all COM's entrance requirements.
- Complete all course requirements for the degree being conferred with a minimum grade of "C" in all courses.
- Completion of at least 25% of the credit hours toward any degree must be earned at COM; however, at least 50% of the required specialized courses for a degree must be completed at COM.
- Cleared all holds and financial obligations to COM.
- All clinical facility ID badges and dosimeters must be returned to the Program before the student will be released to take the ARRT examination.

Disclaimers:
- Successful completion of a criminal background check does not ensure eligibility for future employment.
- Clinical agencies can establish more stringent standards, if they so desire, to meet regulatory requirements for their facility.
- Clinical agencies can conduct additional background checks and drug screening at their discretion.
- If a student is found ineligible for clinical placement at any time during the program, they cannot meet clinical learning objectives and will be administratively withdrawn.
- Students asked to leave the program for violation(s) of COM's or the program's code of conduct, ethical standards, academic honesty, civil rights, or harassment policies are not eligible for readmission.
- Students may be barred from employment by the medical community based on prior criminal convictions.

Program Application Instructions:
The Surgical Technology Program is a highly competitive entry process, and no advance standing or waiting lists will be carried forward to next year's application process. A new application is required every year.

All applications will be reviewed to ensure students meet the minimum requirements. Once your application is accepted, it will be ranked. Points will be given for GPA on prerequisite courses and the HESI preadmission assessment. Additional points are provided for work-related experience and any completed college certificates or degrees.

The application cycle opens March 1 and will close June 15, and applicants will be notified of their program status by June 15.

If there is a tie in ranking in determining program acceptance, the students will then be scored as following:
- Using GPA as first review, the student with the highest GPA will be selected.
- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest HESI scores will be selected.
- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest number of points for residency will be selected.
- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest number of points for prerequisite courses will be selected.
- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest number of points for additional general education courses will be selected.

- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest number of points for the college education be selected.
- If continued review is needed, the student with the highest number of points for video presentation will be selected.

Once accepted into the program, students must attend a ***mandatory pre-semester orientation***.

Students accepted into the program will be contacted via their COM email. It is recommended students check their email daily after the closure of the applications. Students offered a seat within the program (contingent on meeting the program requirements) must accept their placement by

Cohort size will be determined by availability of clinical placements.

Students must be 18 years of age by the first day of class.

Information needed to complete the application:
- ***COM*** ID number and email address.
- Grades for prerequisite courses. An official transcript must be sent to Admissions and Records (A/R). It may take several weeks for A/R to review the transcript, so be sure this is submitted to A/R in time to be reviewed before the end of the application cycle.
- Immunizations
- HESI A2 transcript (be prepared to upload the transcript). You may upload up to 3 transcripts.

- Prior work experience if applicable. This is not required, but it does provide additional application points. You may include up to 2 work-related experiences. Be prepared to include:
    1. Job title
    2. Employer name
    3. Contact Person
    4. Contact Person Phone
    5. Contact Person Email
    6. Dates of Employment
    7. Full-time or Part-time
- Copy of any degree, certification, or non-credit certification. This is not required, but it does provide application points. You may upload only one educational degree.
- Uploaded two (2) minute video introduction.

The program has a mandatory orientation for all newly accepted students held on the first Tuesday in August.   Dates of the orientation will be published in the application.

Please contact us at **lwardell@com.edu** for any questions or issues.

Application Ranking

GPA:

4.00	60 points
3.75-3.99	50 points
3.5-3.74	40 points
3.25-3.49	30 points

3.0-3.24	20 points
2.75-2.99	10 points
2.5-2.74	0 points

HESI Scores:

98-100	10 points
95-97	9 points
91-94	8 points
88-90	7 points
85-87	6 points
81-83	5 points
78-80	4 points
75-77	3 points

Additional GEN ED courses

BIOL 2402- Anatomy & Physiology II	5 points
BIOL 2402- Microbiology for Non-Science Majors	5 points
PHIL 2306- Introduction to Ethics	5 points

COM Students & Residency

Completed at least 2 Semesters at COM	30 points
Live in-district but have not attended COM	15 points
Last Time Student was a Student at COM (within 2 years)	5 points

* College Degrees

Bachelor's degree (or higher) or associate degree in science in the Medical Field	20 points
Associate degree or Medical Certification (30 plus credit hours)	10 points

*Students only given points for highest degree conferred

Professionalism/Behavior

Application Submitted on-time	15 points
Behavior Throughout Process	10 points

Video Presentation

- Audio and visual presentation was clear, informative, and easily understood. - The student spoke clearly with an appropriate tone and volume. - The students showed enthusiasm and interest. - The student's visual appearance and video background is professional in manner, communication, attitude, and appearance. (It does not need to be professionally created, but wearing a swimsuit on the beach would not rate high in appearance).	2 points

After Program Acceptance

You will be given instructions on how to complete these **AFTER** you have been accepted into the program.

Health Assessment

Students must provide a health assessment with a qualified Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant. Students will not be required to provide this until they are accepted into the program. This is required yearly. This will be submitted on an official form and cannot be completed before acceptance into the program.

Drug Screening

Students must complete a **random** drug screening. Students may only use the programs' approved vendors, and the screening must be done in the period dictated by the program. It will be a random screening, and students will have a limited amount of time from notification (by email) to complete the screening. Any dilute screening will be considered a suspicious finding, and the student will have 24 hours to submit an additional screening. A positive or second dilute drug screening will remove the student from the program.   This must be completed within the time frame given by the program. If not done in this time frame, the student will be denied acceptance into the program and an alternative will take their spot.

Background Screening

All accepted students are required to complete a background check administered by programs approved by background check vendors. Students with positive results on their background screening may not be eligible to participate in clinical education rotations. This must be completed within the time frame given by the program. If not done in this time frame, the student will be denied acceptance into the program and an alternative will take their spot.

Getting Started

I am interested in the Surgical Technology Program - what next?

- ***Enroll at COM*** – our enrollment coaches are ready to help!
- Complete the prerequisite courses.
- While completing the courses, be sure to get all your immunizations (start ***Hepatitis B*** at least 8 months prior to applying for the program)
- After completing all the prerequisite courses, take the ***HESI A2*** Admission assessment.
- Take an ***AHA BLS CPR*** Class.
- Lab Titer results – have this done 3 months prior to applying to the program in case you need a "booster" immunization.
- Make sure Admissions and Records have an official copy of your transcripts for the prerequisite courses (if you are not a COM student). It can take up to 6 weeks for a transcript review, so be sure this is done at least 6 weeks prior to applying for the program.