The Surgical Technologist: A Critical Member of the Team

Certified Surgical Technologists (CSTs) have specialized training in sterile technique, instrumentation, equipment and supplies utilized for surgery. The surgical technologist works under the supervision of a surgeon to ensure the operating room environment is safe, the equipment functions properly and conditions maximize patient safety. A surgical technologist possesses expertise in the theory and application of sterile technique and combines the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures and implementation of technologies to facilitate a physician’s performance of procedures.

The goal of the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology Program is to prepare competent Surgical Technology graduates with entry-level abilities in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behaviors) learning domains. These skills will prepare you for immediate access to the job market or a foundation for the baccalaureate degree in allied health or a related field.

The Program

Macomb’s Surgical Technology Program provides you with a unique career ladder. Earn a Skill Specific Certificate in Central Processing Distribution Technician (regular admissions procedures apply) in one semester, preparing you for an entry-level position as a sterile processing technician. After you complete the Central Processing Distribution Technician Program, you may opt to apply through Selective Admissions to the Surgical Technology Program, which prepares you for a supporting role as a member of the surgical team.

Upon successful completion of the Surgical Technology Program, students will sit for the national certification examination. Those who pass the examination earn the title Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

Selective Admissions Criteria

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology is a Selective Admissions program. The one-semester Skill Specific Certificate in Surgical Technology—Central Processing Distribution Technician is not a Selective Admissions program.

For admission to the associate degree program, you must apply and be accepted. All appropriate documentation must be on file at the Center Campus Records & Registration Office, G110, by the application deadline.

For a Selective Admission packet, visit www.macomb.edu and search “Selective Admission,” or call the Enrollment Office at 586.445.7999.

Accreditation

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), 1361 Park Street, Clearwater, FL 33756, 702.210.2350, on recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 110, Littleton, CO 80120, 303.694.9262.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Certified Surgical Technologists (CSTs) are employed in hospital operating rooms, labor and delivery units, emergency departments, ambulatory surgery centers and central supply departments. Some CSTs serve in leadership roles in surgical services departments. CSTs are also utilized in clinics and surgicenters; in ophthalmologist’s, specialty surgeon’s, plastic and reconstructive surgeon’s offices; and as private scrubs. Because of a broad educational background combined with a specialized focus, CSTs function well in a number of diverse areas. They are employed as central service managers, surgery schedulers and materials managers. Their multicompetency is demonstrated in cardiac catheterization, and radiology units and medical sales. CSTs also serve in the Peace Corps, and all branches of the military. A number of CSTs with higher education are instructors and directors of surgical technology programs.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK
With an associate degree and the required certifications, you will be qualified for careers including sterile processing technician and central processing technician. Median salary for these careers is $33,970 in Michigan with 9 percent growth in openings expected through 2024. You will also be qualified for careers including Certified Surgical Technician and surgical scrub technician. Median salary for these careers is $37,040 in Michigan with 13 percent growth in openings expected through 2024.

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURE
For information about program cost, on-time completion rates, typical student debt, and other important information, visit: Surgical Technology Central Processing Distribution Technician Skill Specific Certificate: http://www.macomb.edu/ge/SURGCPDTSK/

Two years at Macomb equals a tremendous savings—about $18,000—compared to attending a Michigan four-year public university. Approximately 80 percent of Macomb students leave the College DEBT FREE.