



**Fall 2010**

---

**Surgical  
Technologist**

**One-Year Certificate  
Program**



Offered by  
Piedmont Virginia Community College  
434-961-5398  
pduff@pvcc.edu

*in partnership with*

Regional Health Care Partners  
Lord Fairfax Community College  
Virginia Western Community College

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

---

## **Purpose:**

The one-year certificate program is designed to provide the community with individuals who can function as operating room technologists and to provide students with an entry-level career in the health care field that is rewarding, in demand, and provides an opportunity for career advancement.

## **Occupational Objective:**

Surgical Technologists currently are in high demand. Surgical Technology is a rapidly growing field with few programs in Virginia and no other program in the Virginia Community College System.

The three-semester Surgical Technology Certificate Program will prepare individuals to perform selected activities in the operating room as an entry-level member of the surgical team. The certificate curriculum is designed to provide graduates the opportunity to become nationally certified as a surgical technologist.



# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

---

The surgical technology program is organized around the belief that as members of the surgical team, surgical technologists assist in the promotion of optimal health for persons with acute or chronic illnesses throughout the life span.

Surgical technology education is a balance of the humanities, sciences, ethical principles and technical skill ability. The curriculum is designed to support the personal and career development of students. As students perform in the operating room they learn and develop their highest potential in a challenging environment. The surgical technology program values the diversity of our students' age, life experiences, and culture as this diversity reflects the society they will serve.

With today's rapidly changing, information expanding health care system, students must develop skills and appreciation for life-long learning. For the surgical technology certificate graduate this may include further acquisition of technical skills and knowledge within the work setting and/or pursuit of additional formal education.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What does a surgical technologist do?**

Surgical technologists are educated specifically to assist in surgical procedures. This certificate program is designed to prepare students to perform as a member of the surgical team during all phases of surgery. Surgical technologists handle the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure. They have an understanding of the procedure being performed in order to anticipate the needs of the surgeon. They must have the necessary knowledge and ability to ensure quality patient care during the operative procedure and are responsible for maintenance of the sterile field.

### **2. Is this a part-time or full-time program?**

Students can arrange their schedule to accommodate a part-time or full-time course load. Students accepted into the program will work with the surgical technology program head to plan their curriculum. Note that most courses are offered sequentially and not every semester.

### **3. How long will the program take?**

Students' current time commitments and courses/requirements already completed will determine how many semesters it will take to finish the program. A full time student may complete the program in 3 semesters (12 months).

### **4. Where will I get my clinical experiences?**

A variety of clinical sites are used to ensure all students can participate in required procedures. During all scheduled clinical experiences students are under the direct supervision of an assigned clinical preceptor. Clinical experiences may be scheduled at the following sites: Martha Jefferson Hospital, The University of Virginia Health System, Augusta Medical Center, Culpeper Regional Hospital, and the University of Virginia Outpatient Surgery Center. Students enrolled through Virginia Western Community College will get their clinical experiences at Lewis-Gale Hospital in Roanoke and Montgomery Regional Hospital in Blacksburg, as well as other hospitals in the region depending on availability. Lord Fairfax Community College students do clinicals at Winchester Medical Center and Fauquier Hospital as well as other regional facilities depending on availability.

### **5. How do I get to class/clinical sites?**

Students are responsible for their own transportation to both classroom and clinical sites.

6. **Will I automatically be hired by one of the regional health care partners when I finish the program?**

Program students will have a priority for any vacancies at the sponsoring training facilities, but the employers will make hiring decisions based on their criteria. During the last semester of the program, students will have the opportunity to become nationally certified as a surgical technologist.

7. **How much does a surgical technologist make?**

The salary range for a surgical technologist is roughly \$25,000-\$42,000, depending on experience and geographic area. According to the Association of Surgical Technologists, the average surgical technologist hourly rate in Virginia is \$18.73.

8. **Is there room for career advancement?**

With continued education, surgical technology is a stepping stone to numerous opportunities, i.e. medical sales representatives, central sterile supply manager, anesthesia technician, surgical first assistant, and nursing.

9. **Are there prerequisites for admission?**

Yes, certain required general education courses have prerequisites that must be completed before admission into the surgical technology program is possible. See page 6 of this booklet for a detailed description of these prerequisites.

10. **Is there financial aid available to surgical technology students?**

Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. Some of these require enrollment in 12 semester hours each term; this should be considered as you plan your schedule. For further information, please contact the **FINANCIAL AID OFFICE** (434-961-6545) at your earliest convenience.

11. **What does it cost to attend the surgical technology program?**

Tuition is \$95.35 per credit hour (including fees) for in-state students. Additional college and program costs include:

Tuition	<b>\$4195</b> (Includes technology fees, student activity fee, and institutional fee)
Books	<b>\$400</b> (this is an approximate figure)
Background Check/Drug Screening	<b>\$103</b>
Other	<b>\$100</b> (Lab coat and miscellaneous supplies- this is also an approximate figure)
Certification exam	<b>\$290 (\$190 for AST members)</b> (Payable during third semester)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5088 (approximate)</b>

# PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

---

## Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student in the surgical technology program must, either independently **or with reasonable accommodation**, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a surgical technologist.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as medication records or scales, chart data, and provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data.
4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat, or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead. Lift 125 pounds independently and 250 pounds with assistance.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment (syringes, infusion pumps, life support systems, hand surgeon instruments without contaminating the instrument or sterile field).
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
7. **Mentation:** Maintain reality orientation for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions, and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.

# Health Status

---

All individuals admitted to the surgical technology program will be required to submit documentation of a complete health assessment by his/her health care provider. This will include documentation that specific immunizations and tests have been completed. A list of these immunizations may be obtained from the Math, Science and Human Services office, Room 270.

# Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

---

All PVCC surgical technology students must complete the Authorization Form for Background Check and Drug Screening. No other processes may be substituted for this requirement. Forms and information will be mailed to students upon acceptance into the surgical technology program.

This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor. The testing will compare findings against the following criteria:

- Adult or child sexual offenses
- Adult, child, or elder abuse or neglect
- Assault or battery
- Fraud
- Narcotics or other drugs, including prescription drugs
- Felonies of any type

The vendor will report only whether a student clears or does not clear the criteria listed above. All reports will be returned to the Dean of Math, Science, and Human Services. In the event that a student is not cleared, the student must make any clarifications directly with the vendor. The student may elect to involve the Dean in any clarification procedures. If no suitable arrangement can be made, the student shall be administratively withdrawn from the surgical technology program.

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

---

Students must demonstrate academic readiness for successful completion of BIO 141 and ENG 111. Any prerequisites must be completed prior to admission into the surgical technology program. Therefore the following courses must be satisfactorily completed (**or successfully challenged by means of college assessment tests**) in order to be considered for admission to the PVCC surgical technology program. Please remember that the admissions process in the surgical technology program is competitive -- only the best-qualified applicants are accepted. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum does not guarantee admission.

1. English 1-5 (developmental English courses) or COMPASS placement testing demonstrating competency in this content
  - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level composition course with a grade of "C" or better may be used to meet this prerequisite. **Completion of this course must be verified by an official transcript.**
  - b. SAT verbal and writing score of 520 or an ACT score of 21 may be used to meet this prerequisite.
  
2. Math 2, Math 9 (or BSK 6) and Math 3 (or BSK 8 & 9) (developmental math courses) or COMPASS placement testing **WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS** demonstrating competency in this content
  - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level math course **WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS** with a grade of "C" or better may be used to meet this prerequisite. **Completion of this course must be verified by an official transcript. Technical math and certain liberal arts math courses will not satisfy this prerequisite.**
  - b. SAT quantitative score of 480 or an ACT score of 20 may be used to meet this prerequisite.
  
3. Meet the prerequisites for BIO 141 (Anatomy & Physiology) at your home school (PVCC, VWCC or LFCC)
  - a. **For VWCC and LFCC students-** see college catalog or academic advisor for BIO 141 prerequisite information
  - b. **For PVCC students** -this can be satisfied by:
    - Completion of high school biology and chemistry courses with a grade of "C" or better
    - Completion of acceptable college-level biology and chemistry courses
    - Completion of NAS 2 (Foundations of Life Sciences)
    - **Completion of above courses must be verified by an official transcript. Courses such as "Consumer Chemistry" do not satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.**
  
4. Current Healthcare Provider CPR certification is a prerequisite for SUR 145 (a copy of card must be presented upon admission to the program).

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to May 1 will be considered for admission in August.

# General Education Courses

---

The "general education" courses in the surgical technology curriculum are courses that form the foundation of basic knowledge upon which the core surgical technology courses are based. These general education courses are: ENG 111, HLT 141, SDV \_\_\_\_, \*BIO 141-142, \*NAS 185

The chart on the following page illustrates how each of these courses fit into the surgical technology curriculum. It is strongly recommended that part-time students complete at least some of the required general education coursework prior to entering the program.

**\*BIO 141, BIO 142 and NAS 185 must be repeated if they were taken more than 8 years from the date of admission to the Surgical Technology program.**

## Part-time Study

---

Students who wish to pursue a part-time course of study should complete the general education course requirements prior to applying for admission to the surgical technology program.

# CURRICULUM FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

---

## First Semester (Fall)

HLT 141 (Intro to Medical Terminology)	2cr
*BIO 141 (Anatomy & Physiology I)	4cr
SUR 140 (Intro. to Surgical Care) <sup>1</sup>	4cr
SUR 145 (Fund. of Surgical Care) <sup>2</sup>	<u>4cr</u>
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>14</b>

## Second Semester (Spring)

SDV 10__ (Student Development)	1cr
*BIO 142 (Anatomy & Physiology II)	4cr
SUR 250 (Surgical Pharmacology)	2cr
SUR 210 (Surgical Procedures)	<u>8cr</u>
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>15</b>

## Third Semester (Summer)

ENG 111 (College Composition I)	3cr
*NAS 185 (Microbiology)	4cr
SUR 254 (Professional Issues)	1cr
SUR 260 (Clinical Practicum)	<u>5cr</u>
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>13</b>

**TOTAL CERTIFICATE CREDITS 42**

**\*Must be completed within 8 years of admission into the program.**

<sup>1</sup>SUR prefix courses must be successfully completed with a "C" or better and in the sequence listed (i.e. first semester SUR courses are prerequisites for second semester, etc.).

<sup>2</sup>CPR for Healthcare Provider course must be completed prior to beginning SUR 145. A current Healthcare Provider CPR card must be presented in the division office.

# ADMISSION PROCEDURES

---

Students who are interested in obtaining general information regarding the surgical technology program may consult the Piedmont Virginia Community College catalog or may direct their questions to the Math, Science and Human Services division office (434-961-5445) or the Surgical Technology faculty (434-961-5398).

Regular Decision: Applicants will have completed all prerequisites and application requirements for admission by **May 1**.

Space Available Decision: Applicants will have completed an application by **May 1** and all prerequisites by the end of the current spring or summer semester.

## **FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENTS**

Students who plan to complete the program at the distance education sites should follow this admission procedure:

1. Complete a PVCC application which is available online at the PVCC home page ([www.pvcc.edu](http://www.pvcc.edu)).
2. Have official copies of your high school and college transcripts sent to the Office of Admissions and Records. You do NOT need to send transcripts from other Virginia community colleges. **It is the student's responsibility to verify that transcripts have been received at PVCC.**
3. Complete assessment testing in reading, writing, and math. Assessment testing must be completed by May 1 in order to be considered for August admission. This testing may be done at any community college.
4. Meet with counselor at LFCC or VWCC for interpretation of the assessment results. You should schedule this intake interview with a counselor no later than May 1 in order to be considered for August admission. During the interview, the counselor will review your academic records to insure that you have met the program prerequisites. In addition, the counselor will recommend appropriate courses to be taken prior to entry into the surgical technology program. Completion of general education coursework on a part-time basis sometimes takes several years.
5. Completion of all prerequisites.
6. Complete the online Surgical Technology Program application by May 1. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/surgtech>. Click on "Apply/Register" to get started.
7. Attend an observational experience in an operating room at a local hospital. This experience will be scheduled soon after the May 1 deadline after applications have been reviewed.

## **FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING PROGRAM ONSITE AT PVCC**

1. Complete a PVCC application which can be found on the PVCC home page ([www.pvcc.edu](http://www.pvcc.edu)).
2. Have official copies of your high school and college transcripts sent to the Office of Admissions and Records. You do NOT need to send transcripts from other Virginia community colleges. **It is the student's responsibility to verify that transcripts have been received at PVCC.**
3. Register for and complete the PVCC assessment program in reading, writing, and math. Assessment testing must be completed by May 1 in order to be considered for August admission. The counseling office may waive some of or the entire placement testing depending on previous college course work.
4. Upon completion of the assessment-testing program, make an appointment with an academic advisor for interpretation of the assessment results and admission into the Surgical Technology curriculum. You must schedule this intake interview with a counselor no later than May 1 in order to be considered for August admission. During the interview, the counselor will review your academic records to insure that you have met the program prerequisites. In addition, the counselor will recommend appropriate courses to be taken prior to entry into the Surgical Technology program. Completion of general education coursework on a part-time basis sometimes takes several years.
5. Completion of all prerequisites.
6. Complete the online Surgical Technology Program application by May 1. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/surgtech>. Click on "Apply/Register" to get started.
7. Attend an observational experience in an operating room at a local hospital. This experience will be scheduled soon after the May 1 deadline after the written application has been reviewed.

## **ALL CANDIDATES**

Students who have completed program prerequisites and submitted all application materials by the deadline date will be reviewed by the program director and division dean for possible Fall semester admission; offers of admission will be extended to the most highly qualified applicants. Decisions will be based on feedback from the OR observational visit and GPA of any/all general education courses completed.

# FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ADMISSION DECISIONS

---

Applications will not be considered without documentation that the following prerequisites have been completed. Completion of these prerequisites does NOT guarantee admission into the surgical technology program.

1. Completion of college placement testing in Math and English
  - a. Must place into MTH 4 or higher, successfully complete developmental Math courses through MTH 3 or have completed an acceptable college-level math course with a grade of C or better WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS. The math course must be verified by an official transcript.
  - b. Must place into ENG 111 or successfully complete developmental reading and writing courses through ENG 3 and/or ENG 5.
  
2. Completion of necessary prerequisites for BIO 141 at your home school.

**After completion of the above prerequisites, applications will be evaluated using the following admission criteria.**

# Applicants With Previous College Experience

---

The following factors are considered in order of priority:

1. Surgical Technology curricular GPA (applicants with a curricular GPA below 2.0 will not be considered).
2. Science GPA (BIO 141, BIO 142, NAS 185) completed within the last 8 years (applicants with a science GPA below 2.0 will not be considered).
3. Number of curricular courses (including science courses) completed.

# Applicants With No Previous College Experience

---

## 1. High School graduates

The following factors are considered in order of priority:

- a. GPA (applicants with a high school GPA below 2.0 will not be considered).
- b. Science GPA (applicants with a high school science GPA below 2.0 will not be considered).
- c. Applicants with HS GPAs below 2.0 are encouraged to enroll in the curricular general education courses to demonstrate ability to satisfactorily complete college level work. These applicants will then be evaluated as “applicants with previous college work”.

## 2. GED holders

The following factors are considered in order of priority:

- a. Overall GED test score (applicants with an overall score of less than 58 will not be considered).
- b. Science GED score (applicants with a science score of less than 58 will not be considered).
- c. Applicants with GED test scores below 58 are encouraged to enroll in the curricular general education courses to demonstrate ability to satisfactorily complete college level work. These applicants will then be evaluated as “applicants with previous college work”.

# A Message from the Head of the PVCC Math Department

---

To: Students who are going to take the Compass Placement Test in Mathematics

As Head of the Mathematics Department at PVCC, I would like you to keep in mind the following suggestions as you get ready to take your placement exam. Most folks go in and take the test and things go correctly. But on occasion, we get people who do not place where they should be. This letter is written especially to help prevent people from placing below their true level.

- Take the exam **very** seriously. The exam determines your starting level of mathematics and hence how much mathematics you will need to take in order to finish your program and/or get your degree. **Re-takes of the placement test are not allowed** (except under special conditions or *extreme* circumstances.)
- Give yourself the time you need. The test is not timed! If you are about to start the test and will be crunched for time (personal deadline, center closing, etc.), please reconsider and...
- Come back early on a different day and take the test when time will not be a factor. Use the time to carefully and seriously answer the questions. *A little time wisely spent on the placement exam can save a semester or more of work!*
- Remember that the correct answer is in front of you, and process of elimination/careful consideration of the choices will help. You want your placement score to reflect what you truly know.
- You are allowed the use of a graphing calculator on this test. If you find yourself without the proper calculator, please ask for assistance at the desk.
- Many students will have to take several placement tests, e.g. Math and English. Consider doing these on separate days to minimize the effect of test fatigue.
- Brushing up on your mathematics before the test is just fine. But don't try to cram and learn things ahead of where you are. You can obtain practice problems for the compass test in mathematics from the Learning Center desk and on the internet at [www.act.org/compass](http://www.act.org/compass). The library has math texts on reserve for your review.
- So—in summary, do yourself justice and place where you truly are in math by being serious and smart about your time.

# COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM

---

**GRADUATION** - Surgical Technology graduates earn a one-year certificate that will be awarded at the end of summer semester in August.

**ACCREDITATION** – This program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) 1361 Park Street, Clearwater, FL 33756; Phone: 727-210-2350.

## CHECKLIST FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY APPLICANTS

---

In order to be considered for admission to the surgical technology program for the fall semester, you must complete the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ PVCC application and high school and college transcripts submitted to the Office of Admissions and Records by May 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ BIO 141 prerequisites **satisfactorily completed by end of spring semester.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ PVCC English and Math assessment testing (or waiver) by May 1. Any necessary developmental English or Math courses **satisfactorily completed by end of spring semester.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the online Surgical Technology Program application by May 1. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/surgtech>. Click on “Apply/Register” to get started.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend OR observational experience. This will be scheduled by Surgical Technology faculty after May 1 application deadline.

Qualified students who have completed all admission requirements by the deadline date will be considered for Fall semester admission.