

APPENDIX A: Technical Standards

The Technical Standards reflect a sample of performance abilities and characteristics necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the Surgical Technology Program; these standards are not admission requirements. The student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator and the Disability Services Coordinator of conditions that may impact the student's ability to meet the Technical Standards.

Requirements	Standards	Examples
Acquiring fundamental knowledge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ability to learn in classroom and educational settings 2. Ability to find sources of knowledge and acquire the knowledge 3. Ability to be a life-long learner 4. Novel and adaptive thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire, conceptualize and use evidence-based information from demonstrations and experiences in the basic and applied sciences, including but not limited to information conveyed through online coursework, lecture, group seminar, small group activities and physical demonstrations
Developing communication skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication abilities for effective interaction with the health care team (patients, their supports, other professional and nonprofessional team members) 2. Sense-making of information gathered from communication 3. Social intelligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately convey information using one or more means of communication (verbal, written, assisted (such as TTY and/or electronic) to patients and the health care team • Effectively communicate in teams

Requirements	Standards	Examples
Integrating knowledge to establish clinical judgment	Critical thinking, problem-solving and decision making ability sufficient for clinical judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to combine and relate didactic knowledge to clinical experience
Incorporating appropriate professional attitudes and behaviors into Surgical Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concern for others, integrity, ethical conduct, accountability, interest and motivation 2. Acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families and healthcare team 3. Acquire the skills necessary for promoting change for necessary quality health care 4. Cross-cultural competency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances • Make proper judgments regarding safe and quality care • Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice • Demonstrate professional role in interactions with patients, intra and inter professional teams • Operate in different cultural settings (including disability culture)
Mobility	Possess physical ability to bend, stoop, stand, or sit for long periods of time in one location with minimum/no movements or breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulate/move around without assistive devices • Ability to hold patient's extremity for a minimum of 5 minutes. • Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds and assist with moving patients

Requirements	Standards	Examples
Motor skills	Possess gross and fine motor ability sufficient to provide effective care in the operating room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulate fine and delicate sutures, instrumentations and equipment • Manipulate instruments, supplies and equipment with speed, dexterity and good eye-hand coordination
Hearing	Possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs of the surgeon and other team members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear and understand muffled communications without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips within 20 feet • Hear activation/warning signals on equipment
Tactile perception and Visual	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possess tactile perception to handle microscopic supplies, instrumentations and equipment. 2. Possess visual acuity for observation and assessment during surgical procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of manipulating delicate instrumentation, equipment and implantable items while wearing surgical gloves • Demonstrate ability enough to load a fine (10-0) suture onto needle holders with/without corrective lenses and while wearing safety glasses needs to have distant vision adequate to see within a 10-foot radius. • Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function while in the sterile surgical environment

The Technical Standards have been adapted from:

- 1 Marks, B., & Ailey, S. A. (2014) White Paper on Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Nursing Educational Programs. Sacramento, CA: California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD).
- 2 Student Handbook (n.d.), Skills Typically performed by Surgical Technologist. Retrieved from:
https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Educators/Policy_and_Procedure_Manual.pdf
- 3 https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Educators/Student_Handbook3.pdf

