GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE
MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Surgical Technology Program

Student Information and Application Packet for Spring 2025 Intake

(Applications are subject to change from year to year)

Applications are due by 10/31/2024

*Prior to completing this application students **MUST** have a personal meeting (in person or by phone) with the program director to cover in detail information on the program and the surgical technology career field. Since this is one of the most important decisions of your life, our desire is to make sure it is an 'informed' decision.*

Daisy Gibson, CST, BS
Surgical Technology Program Director
daisy.gibson@gfcmsu.edu
(406) 771-4355
Office R237

Brief Description and Occupational Outlook:

The surgical technologist functions as an integral member of the surgical team working closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel (AST 1996). Some of the responsibilities include preparation of the operating room, instruments, supplies and equipment prior to the surgical procedure. During the surgical procedure, the technologist passes instruments, supplies, and suture to the surgeon and surgical assistant. The surgical technologist must maintain strong knowledge of human anatomy, allowing them to anticipate the needs of the surgeon in an ever-changing environment.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics https://www.bls.gov/ employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow 5% percent between 2022 and 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations, as the volume of surgeries increases. The number of surgical procedures is expected to continue to rise as the population grows and ages.

In Montana, the average hourly pay for a surgical technologist is approximately $29.03 per hour (AST). The following information is according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm

Mean hourly wage	$29.03
Mean annual wage	$60,370

There is also opportunity to earn additional hourly pay with on-call schedules and shift differentials. The certified technologist can work in various environments such as a large trauma center, out-patient surgical center, surgeon's office, or veterinarian office. After about one year of experience the certified surgical technologist can work as a "traveler" and travel the world with your lodging expenses paid.

GFC MSU Surgical Technology Program Mission, Philosophy & Outcomes:

The Surgical Technology Program provided by Great Falls College Montana State University is a student-centered program responsive to the needs of the community, state and nation. The program strives to provide a quality education through lecture, laboratory and preceptor-model clinical experience to produce competent entry-level graduates who will perform their duties ethically and professionally within the guidelines of the profession.

The program is an outcomes-based program intended to prepare the student to function in the field of the operating room and successfully complete the certification test resulting in a Certified Surgical Technologist, CST. The graduates of this program will be prepared to:

- Work effectively and efficiently while providing safe and excellent patient care.
- Demonstrate accountability and ethical decision making by engaging in legal, ethical, and safe conduct within the recognized scope of practice.
- Properly apply all principles of sterile techniques in regard to the surgical field, instruments, supplies, and equipment. While also monitoring for proper working conditions, cleaning, decontaminating, and properly preparing for sterilization.
- Demonstrate accuracy and integrity while applying professional standards concerning counts, medication, and specimens.
- Demonstrate competency in maintaining composure in the surgical setting and stressful situations, exhibiting professional conduct, effective communication and fostering respectful relationships with all teams of the healthcare system.

- Demonstrate the necessary didactic and clinical skills needed to pass the certification exam and enter into the job arena as a competent, entry-level surgical technologist.

Great Falls College MSU Surgical Technology Program Outcomes:

Cohort year	Starting # in cohort	Graduating # in cohort	# passing certification exam	% passing the certification test at GFC MSU
2023-2024	14	10	10	100%
2022-2023	19	12	12	100%
2021-2022	19	16	16	100%
2020-2021	17	14	11	78.57%
2019-2020	10	8	8	100%
2018-2019	12	10	10	100%
2017-2018	12	10	10	100%
2016-2017	11	10	10	100%
2015-2016	10	6	6	100%
2014-2015	11	6	6	100%

*Cohort is the group of students starting the program in January.

Degree: Associate of Applied Science (AAS) & Certification:

The surgical technology program is **accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)**. Students will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree upon completion from this program. As part of the core curriculum, the GFC MSU will administer the NBSTSA national certifying exam. Once you become certified you will be required to maintain that certification by retesting or obtaining 30 continuing education units (CEU's) every two years. For detailed information on our accrediting and supporting bodies please visit/contact the sites below:

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
www.caahep.org
9355-113th St North, #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
Phone: 727-210-2350
mail@caahep.org

ARC/STSA
Accreditation Review Council On Education In Surgical Technology And Surgical Assisting
www.arcstsa.org
19751 East Mainstreet, #339
Parker, CO 80138
Phone: 303-694-9262
info@arcstsa.org

AST
Association of Surgical Technologists
www.ast.org
6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 200
Littleton, CO 80120-8031
Phone: 800-637-7433
memserv@ast.org

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SURGICAL ASSISTING
www.nbstsa.org
3 West Dry Creek Circle
Littleton, Colorado 80120
Phone: 800-707-0057
mail@nbstsa.org

Equal Opportunity Policy:

Great Falls College MSU is committed to the provision of equal opportunity for education, employment, and participation in all College programs and activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, gender, age, political ideas, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. The College's Equal Opportunity Officer is the Executive Director of Student Services, 2100 16th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405. Telephone: 406-771-4300.

Statement about Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Instructors must receive an official letter from the Disability Services Office to provide accommodations. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Success and Accessibility or call 406-771-4311 to schedule an appointment. http://students.gfcmsu.edu/disabilityservices/index.html

Distance Education Information:

Distance education is defined as a formal educational process in which the majority of synchronous or asynchronous instruction occurs when student and instructor are not in the same place. Distance education may employ correspondence study, audio, video, or computer technologies.

Through the distance education piece of this program, students are required to uphold the same rigor and time commitment that those located at the Great Falls College MSU campus. Lecture classes will be taught through WebEx and you must be in one of the designated class rooms to participate. Lab classes will be taught by an instructor at your location in a designated lab space. Clinical and Internship spots will be assigned to you by your lab instructor and may require you to travel out of your designated spot.

Two distance locations offered: Bozeman, MT and Billings, MT

Please also note, if one of the sites does not have at least 3 students successfully admitted into the surgical technology program, we will not run the program at that distance location however you can remain in the program, but you must travel to a different campus and join their lab class at least once a week. If we are unable to provide a lab instructor for the location you have chosen, you can remain in the program, but you must travel to a campus that does have a lab instructor at least once a week during lab sections. Travel and lodging costs will be at the student's own expense.

Surgical Technology Program Expenses:

Students should begin planning early for financial aid to meet their educational goals. See the campus catalog for program tuition. http://catalog.gfcmsu.edu/academic-programs/surgical-technology/ In addition to regular college tuition and fees, students will be required to fund/purchase the following during the program:
1st Semester of program after formal acceptance
- Textbooks/workbooks
- lab fees
- immunizations
- surgical scrubs; 2 pair
- comfortable professional shoes
2nd Semester of program after formal acceptance
- transportation costs

- relocation costs, including room and board at distant clinical sites (all considerations will be reviewed before decisions are made for relocating)
- health insurance
- immunizations
- background check $92.50
- drug test
- Current CPR (Basic Life Support for Health Care Provider)
- Clinical rotation management platform- required by hospital facility $39.50 - $120.00

Health Science Division Policy Student Background Checks:

- Great Falls College Montana State University does not require background checks. However, to promote patient safety and decrease institutional liability, most clinical agencies require students to have cleared a background check and/or drug screening before they permit the student in the clinical setting. To meet these requirements, the College requires that the check/screening be done prior to placement in any clinical agency.
- Background checks/drug screenings are done at the student's expense. Students with background checks that reveal a finding will be evaluated individually to determine whether they will be eligible for clinical placement and state licensure for their respective degree program
- Students must go through http://verifiedcredentials.com/ for their background check. To be completed once the program starts.

Student Health Insurance: Surgical Technology Program

Surgical Technology program students entering the clinic setting must carry medical health insurance. Health insurance is available through the college for students who do not have other health insurance. Students will be financially responsible for their health care if they become ill or are injured in the clinical setting.

All GFC MSU students enrolled for 6 or more credits are required to have health insurance. Students will be financially responsible for their health care if they become ill or injured in the clinical setting. For students without coverage, GFC MSU offers a program developed especially for students by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana. This plan provides coverage for injuries and illnesses on or off campus and is subject to change. Please contact Student Central 406-268-3700 for more information. **Please see http://students.gfcmsu.edu/insurance.html for more information.**

Surgical Technology Program Grading:

ALL prerequisite courses require a grade of "C-" or higher. Once in the Surgical Technology Program, if a student obtains less than a grade of "Satisfactory" (**80%**) *in any portion*, the entire Surgical Technology Program will have to be repeated. This is a very intense program.

Clinical and Internship Information and Commitment:

The purpose of clinical and internship rotations is to gain experience and to fulfill the "Surgical Rotation Case Requirements" set by the *Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology*, 7th edition. Each student must complete 120 surgical cases in a variety of specialties: general, cardiothoracic, ENT, eye, GU, neuro, ob-gyn, oral/maxillofacial, orthopedics, peripheral vascular, and plastics.

To receive the exposure and variety of surgical cases, students are expected to rotate to different locations. Your lab instructors will try to place you in surgical spots close to your designated college. However, some students will have to travel to surrounding areas at their own expense to fulfill the required surgical cases.

Clinicals do not start until your second semester in the program. Clinicals are 8 weeks long and are 3 days a week from about 6:30am -3:30pm.

Surgical Practicum start in the third semester and is also 8 weeks long. Surgical Practicum is 5 days a week from about 7:00am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday.

The commitment to this program is made not only by you, but by your family and loved ones. You will be investing as much as 12 to 15 hours a day during clinical rotations within the confines of Monday through Friday, 5:30am to 7pm.

Additional requirements prior to clinical rotations:
1. Immunization records (Flu, MMR, PPD, Chickenpox, TDAP, COVID)
2. 'BLS Health Care Provider' CPR card
3. Health Insurance, proof (available through Student Central)
4. Background check (provided by Health Science Division)
5. Drug test
6. Hepatitis B vaccinations or signed waiver
7. Clinical/practicum/internship sites may require other documentation/proof of vaccination besides those required by the college or this program.
8. Clinical site orientation

Admission to the Great Falls College MSU:

Students must be admitted to the College prior to the submission of the Surgical Technology program application and be in good academic standing with the institution. Therefore, no applications will be reviewed until applicants have been admitted to GFC MSU and have a completed admissions file.

Students transferring from a MSU school
- On your home page of your current school log into **Banner Web/My Info**
- Under student info, go into **MSU system transfer multi campus application request form**
- Then fill in the boxes: type of transfer**: Transfer**
- Where are you transferring to**: Great Falls College**
- Term of entry**: Spring 2025**
- Major: **Surgical Technology**
- Press continue and verify all information is correct and submit.

Students transferring from another Montana University System school
- Please fill out a transmittal form and submit to your current college with payment. https://records.gfcmsu.edu/documents/forms/TransmittalApplicationForm.pdf
- Or call the Great Falls College Admissions Office (406) 268-3700 for assistance
- Or applying online at https://admissions.gfcmsu.edu/applynow.html

Surgical Technology Transfer Policy

- Students previously enrolled in **ANY surgical technology program** must report that enrollment and provide official transcripts, a written explanation for leaving AND one (1) surg tech faculty reference from that program.
- There is no guarantee of previous surg tech prerequisite coursework transferring.
- Transfer students must send an official copy of all transcripts to the GFC MSU Registrar's Office to complete their application.
- All students must meet admission requirements for Great Falls College MSU and submit application for the Associate of Applied Science for Surgical Technology. Acceptance into the GFC MSU Surgical Technology program is competitive: application does not guarantee acceptance.

Transferable Courses:

General education coursework taken at other institutions must meet the transfer requirements of the Great Falls College. For information regarding transferable courses, please review the current listing of approved equivalent courses listed in the Transfer Guide under Student Information at: https://prodmyinfo.montana.edu/pls/gfagent/hwzkxfer.p_selstate. All transfer work has to be from an appropriately-accredited institutions.

You will initiate the request for evaluation of credit during the admission process by furnishing an official transcript from the transferring institution(s) and the necessary materials, including copies of the appropriate catalog descriptions or course syllabi, to Registrar. Official transcripts must be sent directly by the issuing institution to the following address:

> Office of the Registrar
> Great Falls College MSU
> 2100 16th Ave S
> Great Falls, MT 59405
> 406-771-5128

Surgical Technology Application Requirements:

All eligibility forms and documents are enclosed in the Surgical Technology Program Information and Application Packet for Spring 2025.

To be eligible to apply for admission into the Surgical Technology Program, applicants must:
- Be admitted to Great Falls College MSU and have a complete admissions file *(if you are coming from another college besides GFC MSU, please send official transcripts).*
- Be currently in Good Academic Standing.
- All prerequisites must have been completed with a "C- "or better.
- Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology classes must have a lab and been completed within the last 5 years.

When applying for admission into the Surgical Technology Program:
- Please note that any documents submitted to the College for application to the Surgical Technology Program become part of the student program file and will not be returned to the student.
- Applicants should keep copies of all documents for their own records. ***Please only submit copies of the original documents.***
- Please send all application items as a completed packet. Items sent separately and at random are easily lost or misfiled. We are not responsible for any late, lost, or misfiled information.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all requirements are met by the established deadline. Deadlines, guidelines, and policies apply equally to all students; thus, there can be no exceptions.
- Any late or incomplete applications will not be considered in the application process. Do not send any portion separately; only applicants meeting all requirements will be further evaluated by the selection committee.
- Submission of false material in this Application Packet will be grounds for non-admission or, if discovered after admission, grounds for expulsion.
- Great Falls College MSU's Surgical Technology Program does not maintain a waiting list. Applicants must reapply each year.
- Please only send required documentation as other supplemental items will be discarded.
- Current students may apply in the semester in which they are finishing their prerequisites and may be considered for conditional acceptance if space is available. Final determination will be made after completion of grades at the end of the semester.

The deadline for applications to the Surgical Technology Program is **October 31, 2024.** Completed applications may be hand delivered, emailed, or mailed to the Health Science Program Assistant at the college. If mailed, applications must be postmarked by **October 31, 2024**, or they will be placed at the back of the application review and will only be reviewed if there are spots left unfilled.

Deliver to:	**Mailing Address:**
Health Science Administrative Associate	Surgical Technology Program Admissions Committee
Room R227	Great Falls College MSU
Fax: (406) 771-2264	2100 16th Ave S
	Great Falls, MT 59405

Application Scoring:

- Only students in Good Academic Standing will be eligible for program acceptance
- For applicants, who have taken courses multiple times; the most recent verifiable grade will be used for scoring/GPA calculations.
- Points and GPAs will be calculated by the Registrar's Office and grade points will be calculated using the current catalog criteria which includes +/- weighing. Plus, or minus is equivalent to the following:

(A)	=	**4**	**(B-)**	=	**2.7**
(A-)	=	**3.7**	**(C+)**	=	**2.3**
(B+)	=	**3.3**	**(C)**	=	**2.0**
(B)	=	**3.0**	**(C-)**	=	**1.7**

- For students, who have been awarded credit for successful performance in subject examinations of the CLEP or DSST programs, the credits will be accepted; however, there is no grade for calculation for scoring or GPA. In this situation, the total points will convert to percentage ranking.
- For students who have been awarded credit for successful performance in subject examinations of the AP program, the credits will be accepted for scores of 3, 4, or 5; however, there is no grade for calculation for scoring or GPA. In this situation, the total points will convert to percentages of ranking.
- For students, who have been awarded credit for Prior Learning Assessment, the credits will be accepted for Passing (P) grades; however, there is no grade for calculation for scoring or GPA. In this situation, the total points will convert to percentages of ranking.
- For students, who have additional educational attainment, the Registrar's Office will verify degrees awarded from official transcripts.

Surgical Technology Curriculum:
Prerequisite Courses for the Surgical Technology Program

These courses must be completed with a minimum grade of "C- "prior to formal acceptance into the Surgical Technology program. Science courses require a lab component.

Course #	Course Title	Credits
AHMS 144	Medical Terminology	3
*BIOH 201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I with lab	4
*BIOH 211	Human A&P II with lab	4
*BIOM 250	Microbiology for Health Sciences with lab	4
M 088	Mathematical Literacy (or higher math)	3
PSYX 100	Intro to Psychology	3
**PHL 221	Intro to Philosophy & Biomedical Ethics	(3)
**COMX 115	Intro to Interpersonal Communication	(3)
Select one of the following:		
WRIT 101	College Writing I	
WRIT 121	Intro to Technical Writing	3

PREQUISITE TOTAL CREDITS   24

These classes must have been completed within 5 years of applying to the Surgical Technology Program and have a lab component. Other classes must have been completed within 15 years.

**It is strongly encouraged, but not required that students also complete COMX 115 Intro to Interpersonal Communication & PHL 221 Intro to Philosophy and Biomedical Ethics prior to applying for the program.

Traditional PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS AFTER FORMAL ACCEPTANCE

Surgical Technology Program: 1st Spring Semester

Course #	Course Title	Credits	
AHST 101	Introduction to Surgical Technology	3	
AHST 115	Surgical Lab I	3	
AHST 154	Surgical Pharmacology	3	
**COMX 115	Intro to Interpersonal Communication	3	
**PHL 221	Intro to Philosophy and Biomedical Ethics	3	TOTAL CREDITS 15

Surgical Technology Program: Fall Semester

Course #	Course Title	Credits	
AHST 200	Operating Room Techniques	5	
AHST 201	Surgical Procedures I	4	
AHST 215	Surgical Lab II	3	
AHST 250	Surgical Clinical I	4	TOTAL CREDITS 16

Surgical Technology Program: 2nd Spring Semester

Course #	Course Title	Credits	
AHST 202	Surgical Procedures II	5	
AHST 251	Surgical Clinical II	5	
AHST 295	Surgical Practicum	5	TOTAL CREDITS 15

PROGRAM TOTAL CREDITS   70

Notification of Acceptance:

All applicants will be notified of their status by e-mail/DocuSign, after the review process is complete. The e-mail should arrive by December 6, 2024. A "letter of intent" will be enclosed for the accepted applications and must be signed and returned by the specified date.

Surgical Technology Program
CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Admissions
(406) 268-3700
admissions@gfcmsu.edu

Office of the Registrar
Great Falls College MSU
2100 16th Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 771-5128
admissions@gfcmsu.edu

Daisy Gibson, CST
Surgical Technology Program Director
(406) 771-4355
daisy.gibson@gfcmsu.edu

Surgical Technology Program
Great Falls College Montana State University
2100 16th Ave. South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Application Packet Cover Sheet (*Due October 31, 2024*)

Name _____(please print clearly)
　　　Last　　　　　　　　　　　　First　　　　　　　　　　　　M.I.
GFC MSU Student ID: _____

Mailing Address: _____
　　　　　　　　　　(mailing address)

　　　　　　　　_____
　　　　　　　　　　(city)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(state)　　　(zip code)
E-mail Address_____(please print clearly)

Home Phone _____ (Cell/Other Phone) _____

Preferred Campus of Placement (Please rank in order of preference, if you are willing to be placed at multiple spots. "1" being the most desirable and so on.) Please also note, if one of the sites does not have at least 3 students successfully admitted into the surgical technology program, we will not run the program at that distance location. See additional information on page 4.

　　　　　　　_____Great Falls College MSU – Great Falls, MT (10 student cap)

　　　　　　　_____City College at MSU Billings – Billings, MT (10 student cap)

　　　　　　　_____Gallatin College at MSU – Bozeman, MT (5 student cap)

Have you ever been enrolled in any Surgical Technology program? *Circle one:　YES　NO*
　If yes, list when and where_____
　If yes, please also include the additional 2 items listed below with your application:
　　1. Attach a written explanation for leaving, & have an official transcript sent from that school directly to GFC MSU Registrar.
　　2. Attach one (1) Surg Tech faculty reference from that program in a sealed envelope with their signature across the seal.

✓	**Check-off List & Application Requirements**
	Complete Admissions File to Great Falls College MSU. This is for transfer students. A completed admissions file includes a completed application, copies of high school/GED/HiSET transcripts or diplomas, submitting official college transcripts verifying transfer coursework, immunizations. Complete admissions files will be verified by the registrar's office and applicants with incomplete files will not be admitted to the program. Students are encouraged to check with the admissions office to confirm that their admissions file is complete. • *(Send official transcripts to GFC MSU Registrar) – do not include in surg tech application packet* • (If you are already attending Great Falls College MSU, you are already admitted.)
	In Good Academic Standing All students must be in good academic standing which means they are not on academic probation/warning OR academic probation/warning continued, OR academic suspension. Good academic standing will be verified by the registrar and any applicants who are not in good academic standing will not be admitted to the program. Students are encouraged to check with the registrar's or admissions office to confirm that they are in good academic standing.
	Completed all prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of "**C-**"
	Completed a meeting with Program Director, list date completed_____ Please schedule a face-to-face or phone meeting with Daisy Gibson, (406) 771-4355 or daisy.gibson@gfcmsu.edu
	Application Cover Sheet completed (page 10)
	Application Evaluation Form (page 11)
	Signed Technical Standards Form (pages 12-13)
	Verification/Documentation of work in the healthcare field with direct patient care. (If applicable, page 14)

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE MSU SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
APPLICATION EVALUATION FORM

Applicant Name: _____ **GFC MSU ID:** _____

Please summarize your course work by completing the table below, with official transcripts on file with the Registrar if courses were taken at another institution. Science courses must be completed within 5 years (2019) of applying for Surg Tech Program and must include a lab component, other courses must be completed within 15 years (2009) of applying for Surg Tech Program.

Please include if class occurred face-to-face (you went on campus), or hybrid (a mix of on campus & online), or completely online. Information on the delivery method of the course is for data gathering purposes only and will not impact the scoring of your application.

Prerequisite Course Number	Course Title	Institution where course was completed	Year course completed	*Delivery – online, hybrid or face-to-face	Grade	Grade Value (grade scale, pg. 8)	Point Value (weight given to subject)	Total Points (grade x point value)
AHMS 144	Medical Terminology						3	
BIOH 201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab						6	
BIOH 211	Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab						6	
BIOM 250	Microbiology for Health Sciences with Lab						4	
M 088 *or higher math*	Mathematical Literacy or HIGHER math						3	
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology						3	
WRIT 101 OR 121	College Writing I or Intro to Technical Writing						3	
						Prerequisite Subtotal:		
ADDITIONAL POINTS (Recommend having these prior to beginning program, but not REQUIRED prior to beginning program.)								
COMX 115	Introduction to Interpersonal Comm						3	
PHL 221	Intro to Philosophy & Biomedical Ethics						3	
						Additional Points Subtotal:		
PREVIOUS DEGREES (*Maximum of 5 points - points awarded for one degree only*) Verification required –official transcript with degree posted on file with Registrar								
Bachelor's degree in Science/Health Field – List where & when:							5	
Bachelor's degree in Unrelated Field – List where & when:							3	
Associate Degree in Science/ Health Field – List where & when:							3	
Associate Degree in Unrelated Field– List where & when:							2	
Certificate in Accredited Health Field – List where & when:							1	
						Previous Degree Subtotal:		
WORK EXPERIENCE (*Maximum of 1 point*) Verification forms are required – see attached								
Clinical work experience in the healthcare field with direct patient care							1	
						Work Experience Subtotal:		
						TOTAL POINTS: (total 142 points)		

✓ *In case of a tie, the tie-breaking criteria will go to the highest cumulative prerequisite GPA.*

Surgical Technology Program
Great Falls College Montana State University
2100 16th Ave. South, Great Falls, MT 59405

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Technical Standards for the Surgical Technologist

The surgical technologist has strenuous demands placed on them routinely. These demands are called Technical Standards.

If you have questions or concerns about your ability to meet the technical standards with or without accommodations, or if you would like to arrange reasonable accommodations, you should contact the Director of Academic Success and Accessibility. Applicants who disclose a disability are considered for admission if they are otherwise qualified so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the educational program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care or others.

To successfully complete the Surgical Technology program, students must demonstrate their competency in carrying out the tasks necessary for safe and effective practice in the field including:

Observation/Sensory-Motor
- Accurately identify and assess heart, breath, abdominal, and other sounds of the human body
- Accurately assess normal and abnormal color changes in the skin and observe pupil changes
- Accurately differentiate colors and recognize patient odors
- Detect and respond appropriately to activation/warning signals on equipment) including auditory and visual signals)
- Detect significant environmental odors
- Distinguish fine print on various medication labels
- Observe and assess conditions of a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe non- verbal communication when performing nursing assessments and interventions or administering medications
- Observe and participate in all demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including computer assisted instruction
- Observe digital or waveform readings
- Perceive signs of disease and/or infection as manifested through physical examination including visual images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart sounds, bowel and lung sounds)
- Read gradients/calibrations on a syringe

Communication
- Communicate accurately and effectively in English with other students, faculty, staff, patients, families and other professionals in a culturally sensitive manner
- Communicate effectively in classroom presentations, seminars, simulation, practicum sites, practicum conferences, and online-formats
- Convey or exchange accurate information in a clear and efficient manner to obtain a health history, identify problems presented, and explain alternative solutions
- Effectively communicate with and respond appropriately to other healthcare professionals' questions, requests, and directions in classroom, lab and clinical settings
- Process and communicate information on the patient's status including changes in mood, activity and posture and non-verbal communications with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team

Psychomotor
- Adjust and operate diagnostic or therapeutic devices by manipulating knobs, dials, and keyboards
- Assemble medical equipment and supplies
- Coordinate fine and gross muscular movements to treat patients in emergency situations

- Engage in patient care delivery in all settings and deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, individuals with disabilities, medically compromised patients and vulnerable adults
- Execute physical movements required to provide general care and treatment to all patients in all health care settings
- Move and position heavy and/or large equipment and patients
- Operate equipment typically found in the health care environment including IV pumps, cardiac monitors, and electric and manual blood pressure equipment, safe handling equipment, operating room beds and stretchers
- Perform basic life support, ventilation/compression (including CPR and AED), and other basic life support functions
- Respond to emergencies precisely, consistently, accurately, and quickly
- Safely assist a patient in moving from one place or another
- Transfer patients from bed to chair, bed to stretcher, stretcher to operating room bed
- Transport patients in wheelchairs as necessary

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative
- Accurately perform mathematical calculations and calculate medication dosages
- Demonstrate factual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive knowledge
- Effectively perform chart reviews
- Effectively prioritize multiple tasks
- Effectively take doctors' orders
- Exercise good judgment in patient assessment
- Manage the demands of time constraints and frequent interruptions
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, synthesize and problem solve in the context of the level and the focus of their curricular program
- Perform data entry tasks using available technology
- Perform universal precautions against contamination
- Provide all aspects of patient care in the hospital setting
- Provide clear expression of personal ideas and feelings, demonstrations of bidirectional feedback, and sensitivity to persons with ideas and experiences that different from their own
- Use and interpret information from assessment techniques/maneuvers such as those involved in assessing respiratory and cardiac function, blood pressure, neurological status, etc.
- Use and interpret information related to physiologic phenomena generated from diagnostic tools (sphygmomanometer, otoscope, ophthalmoscope) during a comprehensive examination of a patient

Behavioral and Social Attributes
- Abide by the professional standards of practice defined by the discipline
- Demonstrate compassion, sensitivity, and concern for others
- Demonstrate understanding and adherence to professional standards
- Function effectively under physically taxing workloads including in times of physical and mental stress
- Function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways
- Maintain appropriate professional decorum in high stress situations and when exposed to unusual sights and smells
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to all phases of work

I understand that I will be expected to demonstrate competency in the technical standards stated above in order to successfully complete the program.

_____   _____   _____

Print Student Name   Student Signature   Date

VERIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT with DIRECT PATIENT CARE

*(PRINT) Last Name*_____ *First*_____*Middle* _____ was/is employed

from _____ to _____ working an average of_____ hours per/week.
      Month/Day/Year   *Month/Day/Year*

*Approximate Total hours of Experience:*_____*Job Title:*_____

COMMENTS/DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

_____   _____
Signature of Employer/Supervisor/HR Representative   **Date**

_____
Name of Employer (Please Print)

_____
Mailing Address   **(Street Address, P.O Box)**

_____
City   **State**   **Zip Code**

```
OFFICE USE ONLY:
TYPE:_____          AMOUNT:_____

REVIEWED BY:_____        DATE:_____
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