SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Surgical Technology Program Technical Standards

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

South Plains College's Associate Degree in Surgical Technology has established technical standards and essential functions for the program. The ability to meet these standards and essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, is required in order to complete the program satisfactorily.

The college does not discriminate in admission or access to programs based on any characteristic protected by law, including disability. Persons with disabilities are eligible for admission, as long as they can carry out classroom and laboratory assignments; pass written, oral and practical examinations; and meet all of the requirements of the program and generally accepted requirements of the profession, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Disability & Accommodations Services: If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability-related needs will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration the technical standards and essential skills which must be performed to meet the program objectives. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Student Disability Services 806-716-4675 (Reese/ATC/Plainview) or 806-716-2577 (Levelland).

Requirements	Standards	Examples
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	Ability to learn and reason: Students must have the ability to solve problems rapidly, anticipate changes, and adjust to that change sufficient for clinical judgment	▪ Make effective decisions in the didactic, laboratory, and clinical settings that would reflect a positive outlook on patient care. ▪ Short/Long term memory sufficient to perform tasks including but not limited to mentally tracking surgical supplies and performing anticipation skills intraoperatively. ▪ Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in emergency situations.
Communication	Verbal and non-verbal communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency with patients, and the healthcare team.	▪ Follow verbal and non-verbal in an effective manner with staff, patients, and physicians

		to explain procedures, give instructions, and obtain information.
		▪ Recognize and report critical patient information and unethical behavior to healthcare providers.
		▪ Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings.
		▪ Exhibit positive interpersonal skills in patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
Motor Skills/Tactile	Sufficient gross and fine motor skills to perform perioperative patient care and assessments.	▪ Stand, bend, stoop and/or sit for long periods of time in one location with minimal breaks.
		▪ Lift a minimum of 20lbs (50 lbs. is required in many healthcare settings).
		▪ Assist with and/or lift, move, position, and manipulate, with or without assistive devices, the unconscious patient.
		▪ Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function while in the sterile surgical environment.
		▪ Refrain from nourishment or restroom breaks for periods up to 6 hours.
		▪ Arm-Hand steadiness- the ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arms or while holding your arm and hand in one position for short/long periods of time.
		▪ Ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble small objects.

		▪ Manual dexterity: ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects. ▪ Move, adjust, position, and transfer patients or equipment. ▪ Ambulate/move around without assistive devices.
Observation	The ability to actively participate in all demonstrations, laboratory exercise, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend caseload in perioperative settings. This requires functional use of visual and auditory sensations.	**Visual (corrected as necessary)** ▪ The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around, see details at a distance, and match/detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness. ▪ Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function while in the sterile surgical environment. ▪ Demonstrate sufficient visual ability to load a fine [10-0] suture onto needles and needle holders with/without corrective lenses while wearing safety glasses. **Auditory (corrected as necessary)** ▪ Hear and understand muffled communication without seeing the commander's mouth/lips within 20ft. Distance. ▪ Hear activation/warning signals on equipment.
Technological	Ability to perform basic computer, software, editing, internet, and browsing skills.	▪ Database user interface and query software. ▪ Use of internet browsers and search engines for specific topics. ▪ Medical software-electronic medical record EMR software, MEDITECH software, or surgical

		- workflow communication software. - Use of word processor to create, edit, and save documents. - Providing self-information through telephone, written form, e-mail, or in person.
Interpersonal Skills	Emotional stability and appropriate behavior sufficient to assume responsibility/ accountability for actions.	- Make appropriate judgment decisions. - Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills under stress. - Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in emergency situations. - Exhibit positive interpersonal skills during patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
Professional Conduct	Ability to reason morally and ethically in the clinical, laboratory, and academic setting that will promote patient safety.	- Willingness to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. - Attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.

*All findings for Surgical Technology Technical Standards are found through the Association of Surgical Technologist (www.ast.org), and the U.S. Department of Labor O*Net (https://www.onetonline.org/find/quick?s=surgical+technology)