



## **Surgical Technology Technical Standards**

### **Purpose Statement:**

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Definition of Standard</b>	<b>Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program</b>
<b>Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills</b>	Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability to make sound decisions at a moment's notice.</li><li>• Ability to respond appropriately in emergency situations.</li><li>• Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations.</li></ul>

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with the healthcare team, patients and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect diversity and treat everyone with dignity and respect.</li> <li>• Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication Skills</b>	Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal and non-verbal formats with faculty, patients, families, fellow students and all members of the multidisciplinary team to monitor and assess patient and equipment function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, patients and staff in a clinical setting.</li> <li>• Document and interpret actions and client responses as well as treatment procedures in a clear, professional, and timely manner.</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maneuver in the clinical environment with a variety of equipment.</li> <li>• Manipulate/move patients and equipment.</li> <li>• Hold equipment for up to 15 minutes.</li> </ul>

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
<b>Motor Skills</b>	Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to perform duties with the ability to engage in skills requiring the use of gross and fine motor manipulation of arms, hands and fingers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manipulate both small/delicate instruments as well as larger, heavier equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Strength and Stamina</b>	Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to stand and be mobile for up to 12 hours (with a 30 minute break).</li> <li>• Lift instrument trays which may weigh up to 27 lbs.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sight</b></li> <li>• <b>Sound</b></li> <li>• <b>Touch</b></li> <li>• <b>Smell</b></li> </ul>	Sufficient auditory, visual, and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between suture threads, track needles smaller than an eyelash, and discern medicine dosage increments on syringes.</li> <li>• Interpret hand signals.</li> <li>• Monitor vital signs and observe clients' physical responses.</li> </ul>

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
<b>Behavioral / Emotional Skills</b>	Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability and reliability; Function effectively and adapt to circumstances including highly stressful or rapidly changing situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abide by the AST Code of Ethics</li> <li>• Advocate, uphold, and defend a patient's right to privacy and doctrine of confidentiality.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental / Occupational Exposure</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out job skills in an infectious and hazardous environment.</li> <li>• Carry out job skills in an environment that may affect personal electronic and/or implantable medical devices.</li> </ul>

*Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.*

### **Accessibility & Accommodations:**

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish

accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:accessibility@southwesterncc.edu) or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

**Signature of Understanding:**

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Citations:**

- [Dictionary of Occupational Titles: Surgical Technician](#)
- [Dictionary of Occupational Titles: Abilities](#)
- [Association of Surgical Technologists](#)
- [Association of Surgical Technologists: Code of Ethics](#)