

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY STUDENT PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STANDARDS*

Surgical Technology students should possess and be able to demonstrate the following:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Surgical Technology student should possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example: student must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations.
2. **Interpersonal Skills:** Surgical Technology student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, group, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. For example: student shall establish rapport with health care team members.
3. **Communication Skills:** Surgical Technology student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. For example: explain surgical procedures, document when appropriate.
4. **Mobility:** Surgical Technology student shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, stand for extensive periods of time. For example: moves around in operating rooms, and work spaces.
5. **Motor Skills:** Surgical Technology student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective instrumentation. For example: use operating room equipment, assist the surgeon with instruments, and administer cardiopulmonary procedures as needed.
6. **Hearing:** Surgical Technology student shall possess auditory ability, sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. For example: hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, cries for help, surgeon asking for instruments, giving verbal orders.
7. **Visual:** Surgical Technology student shall possess visual ability sufficient for identifying instruments. For example: recognize instruments to pass to surgeon, and threading sutures.
8. **Weight-Bearing:** Surgical Technology student shall possess ability to lift and manipulate/move 45-50 pounds, weekly and sometimes daily. For example: position patients, move equipment and instrument sets.
9. **Cognitive Abilities:** Surgical Technology student shall possess ability to be oriented to time, place, and person and organize responsibilities, and make decisions. For example: student shall implement appropriate plans within the operating room.
10. **Occupational Exposures:** Surgical Technology student may be exposed to communicable disease and/or body fluids, toxic substances, medicinal preparations and shall use appropriate precautions at all times. For example: student may be assigned an AIDS client and shall provide total care using standard precautions.

EXAMPLES ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE

If a Surgical Technology student or applicant believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations or modifications, the college must determine, on an individual basis, whether or not the necessary accommodations or modifications can be made reasonably.