

# Surgical Technology AAS DEGREE

## Program Overview

The Surgical Technologist is a critical member of the patient care team during surgery. They are responsible for a wide variety of duties, including preparing and maintaining the sterile field and all instruments and supplies used during surgery. Surgical Technologists responsibilities include anticipating the next steps during the surgical procedure and assisting if needed. The Surgical Technology AAS degree is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and professionalism in order to participate safely, and effectively in the perioperative environment.

## Career Opportunities

Most Surgical Technologists work in a wide variety of hospital settings; from community hospitals to trauma centers, as well as standalone day surgery outpatient facilities. Employment of Surgical Technologists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The immediate need for Surgical technologists is vast, with a multitude of opportunities for properly trained Surgical Technologists.

## Program Outcomes

1. To prepare competent entry level Surgical Technologists in the cognitive (knowledge) psycho-motor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.
2. Communicate effectively and professionally with all members of a diverse sterile processing and surgical team.
3. Apply logical and critical thinking skills as it relates to Surgical Technology job duties.
4. Demonstrate safe handling of surgical instrumentation, equipment and supplies used in surgical patient care.
5. Identify surgical instrumentation, supplies, and ' equipment used in surgical patient care.
6. Use appropriate medical terminology related to the role of Surgical Technology.
7. Apply computer skills required in Surgical Technology.
8. Describe the cycle of sterilization as it relates to the Surgical Technologists role.
9. Demonstrate proficiency in establishing and maintaining the sterile field using aseptic technique.
10. Identify appropriate contraindications and usage of drugs as it relates to the role of the Surgical Technologist.

## Program Faculty

Jolianne Mohler  
jolianne.mohler@saintpaul.edu

Wiki Viertel  
wiki.viertel@saintpaul.edu

## Program Requirements

- Check off when completed
- All SURG courses must be completed with a "C" or better.

Course	Cr
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 1471 Medical Terminology . . . . .	2
<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC 1418 Computer Fundamentals OR BTEC 1421 Business Information Applications 1 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1405 Intro to Surgical Technology . . . . .	1
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1410 Sterile Processing . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1415 Surgical Microbiology . . . . .	2
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2400 OR Fundamentals . . . . .	1
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2405 Pharmacology . . . . .	2
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2411 Pathology & Procedure . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2415 Operating Room Lab 1 . . . . .	4
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2420 Operating Room Lab 2 . . . . .	4
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2430 Operating Room Clinical 1 . . . . .	8
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 2435 Operating Room Clinical 2 . . . . .	8
<b>Subtotal . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>

## General Education/MnTC Requirements Cr

Refer to the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Course List for each Goal Area

<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 1: Communication . . . . .	3
COMM 1710 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR COMM 1720 Interpersonal Communication – 3 cr	
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 3 Natural Sciences . . . . .	13
BIOL 1740 General Biology 1 . . . . .	5
BIOL 2721 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 . . . . .	4
BIOL 2722 Human Anatomy and Physiology 2 . . . . .	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 5: History, Social Science and Behavioral Sciences . . . . .	3
PSYC 1720 Lifespan Development . . . . .	3
<b>General Education Requirements . . . . .</b>	<b>19</b>

**Total Program Credits . . . . . 60**

## Program Start Dates

Fall, Spring

Day cohort classes offered as well as afternoon/evening cohorts. Day and afternoon/evening cohort start dates alternate every other semester. For more information, please consult with an academic advisor.

## Prerequisites/Admission Guidelines:

1. Successful completion of the Sterile Processing Certificate with a minimum cumulative 2.85 GPA and a grade of C or better in all Sterile Processing courses. See Sterile Processing Program Requirement Guide for admissions requirements.
2. Must complete vaccination requirements directed by faculty at required program orientation session.
3. Attend required orientation session after program acceptance.
4. Complete Basic Life Support for Healthcare provider (BLS) CPR prior to starting SURG 24XX courses.
5. Must pass MN Department of Health and Human Services Background study.

*See back of this guide for Course Sequence & Transfer Opportunities*

### Minimum Program Entry Requirements

Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

**Reading:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722 or READ 0724 or EAPP 0900

**Writing:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922 or EAPP 0900

**Arithmetic:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in MATH 0745

**Assessment Results and Prerequisites:** Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

*Information is subject to change.  
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*



Program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).



# Surgical Technology AAS DEGREE *(continued)*

## Course sequence

The following course sequence is recommended. Not all courses are offered each semester; a selection of courses is offered summer term. Students should consult with an academic advisor each semester.

### First Semester

BIOL 1740 General Biology 1 . . . . .	5
PSYC 1720 Lifespan Development . . . . .	3
<b>Total Semester Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>8</b>

### Second Semester

BIOL 1471 Medical Terminology. . . . .	2
BIOL 2721 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 . . . . .	4
BTEC 1418 Computer Fundamentals OR	
BTEC 1421 Business Information Applications 1 . . . . .	3
COMM 1710 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR	
COMM 1720 Interpersonal Communication . . . . .	3
<b>Total Semester Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>12</b>

### Third Semester

BIOL 2722 Human Anatomy and Physiology 2 . . . . .	4
SURG 1405 Intro to Surgical Technology . . . . .	1
SURG 1410 Sterile Processing . . . . .	3
SURG 1415 Surgical Microbiology . . . . .	2
<b>Total Semester Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>10</b>

### Fourth Semester

SURG 2400 OR Fundamentals . . . . .	1
SURG 2405 Pharmacology . . . . .	2
SURG 2411 Pathology & Procedure . . . . .	3
SURG 2415 Operating Room Lab 1 . . . . .	4
SURG 2420 Operating Room Lab 2 . . . . .	4
<b>Total Semester Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>14</b>

### Fifth Semester

SURG 2430 Operating Room Clinical 1 . . . . .	8
SURG 2435 Operating Room Clinical 2 . . . . .	8
<b>Total Semester Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>16</b>

**Total Program Credits . . . . . 60**

## Transfer Opportunities

Saint Paul College has transfer agreements & partnerships between many post-secondary institutions. For more information please go to [saintpaul.edu/Transfer](http://saintpaul.edu/Transfer).