

PREPPY PROGRAM

Surgical Technologist

Build the professional, technical, and safety competencies to support surgical teams in delivering safe, effective operative care.

Course Features



Textbook Access

Required texts provided at no additional cost



10 Hours of Tutoring

One-on-one support from subject matter experts



Career & Résumé Support

Professional resume review and career coaching



Learning Resources

Instructional videos and interactive content



Peer Community

Discussion boards for collaboration and peer support

How This Program Works

The Surgical Technologist pathway is structured in five stages. You'll begin with foundation courses in success, anatomy & physiology, and medical terminology. Passing the foundation courses with a 70% or higher unlocks the Surgical Technologist concentration course — a comprehensive curriculum covering professional practice, OR safety, sterile technique, instrumentation, anesthesia awareness, and surgical specialty exposure. After completing the concentration, you'll have the option to pursue national certification, receive your university certificate, and access externship placement and vocational assistance to launch your career.

Throughout the program, you'll learn through reading assignments, expert-led instructional videos, interactive practice activities, and scenario-based assessments. Periodic benchmarks validate your mastery before you advance.

Foundation Courses

Complete these three courses before advancing to the concentration. They establish the mindset, vocabulary, and body-system knowledge essential for surgical technology success.

Success for Healthcare Workers

Build self-awareness, time management, critical thinking, and professional skills needed to thrive in course and career.

Anatomy & Physiology

Explore body systems, anatomical terminology, and clinical documentation with a focus that connects directly to surgical procedures and perioperative care.

Medical Terminology

Master the structure of medical terms — prefixes, roots, and suffixes — along with abbreviations, pathology language, and clinical documentation vocabulary.

⚠ **Progression Requirement:** A score of 70% must be achieved in Medical Terminology to unlock the Concentration Course.

Surgical Technologist Concentration Course

The core of the program — 11 checkpoints that take you from professional scope and patient care fundamentals through surgical specialties and perioperative workflow, with 4 periodic benchmarks to confirm mastery along the way.

Professional Practice & Patient Care

Scope of practice, medical law and ethics, risk management, the surgical patient journey, and special population considerations.

OR Environment & Safety Standards

Operating room design, environmental hazards, fire safety, electrical and radiation safety, sharps protocols, and biomedical waste management.

Sterile Technique & Infection Control

Microbiology principles, surgical asepsis, sterile field setup and maintenance, contamination

Instrumentation & Equipment

Surgical instrument classification, equipment management, biomedical technologies, energy

recognition, and infection prevention practices.

devices, implant and graft handling, and cost containment.

Anesthesia & Pharmacology Awareness

Types of anesthesia, medication safety, pharmacology awareness within role boundaries, and recognition of anesthesia complications.

Surgical Case Management & Specialties

Preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative workflow, patient positioning, wound healing, specimen handling, emergency response, and surgical specialty exposure.

Course Textbook

The following text is provided as part of your enrollment – no need to purchase separately:

Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist: A Positive Care Approach, 6th Edition
(Association of Surgical Technologists)

Textbook access is provided digitally via VitalSource Bookshelf and will be available at the start of the concentration course.

STAGE 3

Sit for Your Certification Exam

Upon completing the Surgical Technologist Concentration Course, you'll have access to targeted study materials designed to help you prepare for national certification exams. **Sitting for a certification exam is optional and entirely your choice.**

Certification Options


You may choose to pursue one of the following nationally recognized certifications:

TS-C – Tech in Surgery - Certified

Offered by the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT). This exam assesses competency in surgical technology principles and practice.

NRST – Nationally Registered Surgical Technologist

Offered by the American Association of Healthcare (AAH). This exam validates your knowledge across all core competencies of surgical technology.

 **Eligibility Requirements:** Each certifying organization has its own eligibility criteria, which may include specific educational requirements, clinical hour minimums, or other prerequisites. You are responsible for verifying that you meet all requirements before registering for an exam.

STAGE 4

Receive Your University Certificate

Upon successful completion of all foundation courses and the Surgical Technologist Concentration Course, you will receive a certificate of completion from our university partner.

What This Certificate Represents

- Official recognition of your completion of a comprehensive surgical technology program
- Demonstration of competency in professional practice, sterile technique, instrumentation, and surgical specialties
- A credential from a regionally accredited institution to include on your résumé and professional profiles
- Validation of your readiness to pursue externship and employment opportunities

STAGE 5

Externship & Career Placement Support

Upon completing the Surgical Technologist Concentration Course, you'll receive comprehensive resources and guidance to secure your externship placement and launch your career in surgical technology.

Externship Support

- Externship introductory call to guide your site search
- Access to prospective externship sites in your area
- Clinical affiliation agreement template
- Site procurement checklist to organize your outreach
- On-site success strategies to maximize your experience

- Clinical hours timesheet template
- 30-day follow-up call to support your progress

Career Placement Support

- Career services introductory call
- Prospective employer leads in your area
- Mock interview preparation to build your confidence
- 30-day follow-up to support your job search

Your Active Role: You will take the lead in securing your externship placement and job position. Our career support team provides resources, site leads, templates, and guidance throughout the process—but you'll be responsible for reaching out to facilities, coordinating placements, and managing your job search. This hands-on approach builds the professional communication and initiative skills that employers value.

Program Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful, and responsible manner. Violations include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and academic misconduct. Failure to comply may result in a zero on the assessment, removal from the course, or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion

All required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded for the course to be considered complete. Required coursework consists of graded assignments, benchmarks, and the final exam.

AI Use-Case Policy

AI use-case policies are designated per assessment and noted within each checkpoint. StraighterLine Preppy Pathways support three models: **Independent Work Requirement**, **AI-Assisted Planning Option**, and **AI-Integration Requirement**. Refer to individual assessments for the applicable policy.