



Lake Area Technical College **Surgical Technology** program has outlined some essential skills and abilities students must possess to succeed in this program and later in their professional roles. These standards generally encompass physical, cognitive, and interpersonal abilities necessary to perform the duties of a surgical technologist safely and effectively. Below are common categories and examples of technical standards for such programs:

1. Motor Skills

- Ability to stand for prolonged periods, often 8-12 hours per shift.
 - Dexterity to manipulate instruments and equipment with precision.
 - Ability to assist in patient positioning and moving heavy equipment or supplies (lifting up to 50 pounds is common).
 - Hand-eye coordination to handle surgical instruments safely and effectively.
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2. Sensory/Perceptual Abilities

- Visual acuity to differentiate colors, read small print, and observe patient conditions.
 - Auditory ability to hear alarms, monitor equipment sounds, and respond to verbal instructions from the surgical team.
 - Tactile ability to differentiate textures, temperatures, and other sensory information critical for surgical tasks.
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3. Communication Skills

- Clear and effective verbal and written communication in English to interact with patients, healthcare teams, and documentation systems.
 - Ability to follow and interpret verbal and written instructions promptly.
 - Strong interpersonal skills to work collaboratively with diverse surgical teams.
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4. Cognitive and Critical Thinking Skills

- Ability to prioritize tasks and respond appropriately in high-pressure, fast-paced environments.
 - Problem-solving skills to anticipate and resolve issues related to instruments, patient needs, or procedural requirements.
 - Ability to maintain focus and attention to detail, especially during long procedures.
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5. Emotional and Behavioral Stability

- Ability to maintain composure and professionalism in stressful or emergency situations.
 - Emotional resilience to handle exposure to critical or life-threatening conditions.
 - Professionalism to respect patient privacy and adhere to ethical standards.
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6. Physical Stamina

- Endurance to perform tasks for extended periods without breaks.
 - Capability to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, gloves, and lead aprons, for extended periods.
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7. Adaptability

- Flexibility to work varied shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays.
 - Adaptability to changes in surgical schedules or emergencies requiring quick decision-making.
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8. Safety Awareness

- Knowledge and adherence to infection control practices.
 - Awareness of environmental hazards, such as sharps or biohazardous materials, and the ability to mitigate risks.
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9. Ethical and Legal Standards

- Understanding of patient confidentiality, HIPAA regulations, and scope-of-practice limitations.
- Commitment to adhering to institutional and national guidelines for surgical practices.