



# Surgical Technology Program Information & Advising Notes

The professional Surgical Technologist is in high demand in the operating room. The Surgical Technologist works under the direction of the Registered nurse and the Surgeon to provide a safe and efficient surgical procedure.

Our program is a 2-year, 65 credit program that, upon completion, students earn an Associates Degree in Applied Science in Surgical Technology. We accept 14 new students each fall. The program runs for 5 sequential semesters. All prerequisites must be met before application to the program will be considered. Attendance is strictly monitored. See required program courses in the college catalog. Counselors will go over your transcript when you meet with them.



## Program Learning Goals

- Academic study concerning current surgical procedures and concepts
- Knowledge and skill with surgical instruments and equipment
- Management of pharmacologic agents and chemicals in the surgical field
- Safety in the operating room
- Plan and prepare for surgical procedures
- Sterile and aseptic techniques
  - Sterile table set up
  - Passing instruments
  - Remedy contamination immediately
  - Practice safety
- Facilitate the surgical procedure by anticipating the team and patient needs
- Ethical and accountable behaviors
- Prepare & take NBSTSA certification examination

Questions? Please contact the  
Program Director:

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a surgical technologist, you'll join highly skilled surgical teams to help facilitate safe surgeries. You will work side-by-side with surgeons to ensure that the operating room environment is safe, equipment functions properly and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety. As a Lakeland student, you will gain the knowledge and skills needed to perform safe and effective patient care in the surgical environment. As a result, our students excel in this high-demand field and enter the job market with a competitive edge. Lakeland's Surgical Technology program is specialized to prepare entry-level surgical technologists who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.

Students in Lakeland's surgical technology program gain knowledge and instruction through lectures and off-site clinical training at top area health care organizations. They also gain essential hands-on experience in the college's modern simulated operating room. Coursework includes the study of anatomy and physiology, sterile technique, surgical methods, materials and techniques, surgical pharmacology and microbiology. We combine this with the study of surgical specialties and procedures. This program is designed to provide students with the skills needed to gain immediate employment within elite healthcare facilities as well as preparing them to earn the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential.

## DEGREE EARNED

Students will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree upon successful completion of the program curriculum, and completion of the NBSTSA National Certification Exam.

## PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Lakeland Community College Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program ([www.CAAHEP.org](http://www.CAAHEP.org)), upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting ([www.ARCSTSA.org](http://www.ARCSTSA.org)).

Upon graduation each student is required to sit for the certification examination by the National Board for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting ([www.NBSTSA.org](http://www.NBSTSA.org)).

The surgical technology program follows the national curriculum as recommended by the Association of Surgical Technologists ([www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org))

Historical data regarding NBSTSA CST Exam pass rate and job placement rate can be found online: <https://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/surgical-technology-departments>

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

Number of Students Accepted Per Year = 14
Surgical Technology Program starts each fall semester
Waiting List: varies. Contact Admissions for current wait list information. 440-525-7100
<i>Applicants who have completed all the requirements for admission will be accepted into the program on a space available basis. If completion of the criteria occurs after the incoming class is filled, students will be admitted into the next available class.</i>

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

It is recommended that students should complete the courses required for admission into the program first. Students may gain admission to the program through one of two options, Option I – High School Option, Option II – College Option

<b><u>Option I – High School Option*</u></b>	<b><u>Option II – College Option</u></b>
<p>Within 2 years of HS graduation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS Algebra, Biology, &amp; Chemistry with a “C” grade or better.</li> <li>• 2.5 HS GPA on a 4.0 scale</li> </ul> <p>Recommendation: HLTH 1215 Medical Terminology at Lakeland, “C” grade or better, the summer term prior to entering the program.</p> <p><i>Note: Option 1 students may take HLTH1215 and BIOL2210 as a co-requisite with SURG1100, although it’s not recommended.</i></p> <p><i>Best course of action: Take HLTH1215 in high school or the summer prior to SURG1100. Consider taking BIOL2210 also.</i></p>	<p>You have graduated HS more than 2 years ago, may have some college credits, or have earned a degree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLTH 1215 – Medical Terminology*</li> <li>• BIOL 2210 – Anatomy &amp; Physiology I*+ #</li> <li>• MATH 0850 – Beginning Algebra<sup>+</sup> or placement into MATH 1330.</li> </ul> <p>*HLTH 1215 and BIOL2210 must have a combined gpa of 2.50. (<i>i.e.: you earn a “C” in BIOL2210, you need an “A” in HLTH1215</i>)</p> <p>+Must be completed with a “C” grade or better.</p> <p>#BIOL 2210 has the prerequisite of high school chemistry or CHEM 1100 and high school biology within the last five years; or complete BIOL 1200 with a “C” or better.</p>

## APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM

1. Apply to Lakeland Community College. Get an LID#.
2. Send in HS transcript or GED; all college transcripts.
3. Complete mandatory New Student Orientation and Health Program Info session online .
4. Meet with a counselor 440-525-7050 for academic planning & transcript review
5. Formal application to surgical technology program.
6. Formally accept your spot in the program, return acceptance letter and program fee.
7. Declare surgical technology (9335) as your major.
8. Attend Surgical Technology Orientation day (the Tuesday prior to the start of Fall semester).
9. Begin health requirements (physical, vaccinations, labs, titers). You will get these requirements acceptance information.

*If your name is not on the registration roster by July, you will be dropped from the list and the seat will be opened to other qualified applicants. If you change your mind after acceptance, please advise the program director, so the seat can be opened up for another student.*

## TRANSFER INFORMATION

Transfer of courses from Lakeland to another institution: College level, general education courses may transfer. Technical courses in surgical technology may not transfer to every institution. Students should contact the college or university of interest to determine which credits the institution will accept and apply towards the advanced degree.

Transfer of courses from another institution to Lakeland: College level, general education courses may transfer upon approval of Lakeland's counselors. Technical courses in surgical technology will not transfer to Lakeland toward the AAS degree requirements for surgical technology. Students who were enrolled in a surgical technology program at another institution must begin Lakeland's program as a new student, enrolled in SURG 1100.

## PROGRAM SUMMER SESSIONS

The program's curriculum requires students to attend the summer semester between their first and second years. This program follows a non-standard academic schedule. The surgical technology summer semester will begin approximately a week after college graduation weekend. The eight-week SURG 2100 course will finish approximately Mid-July. Students are required to enroll in the summer SURG2100 course.

Prerequisite courses for admission into the program and non-technical courses may be offered during the standard summer semester.

*Note: Summer is a great time to recommend BIOL2700, as it aligns well with our SURG2100 topics! Great time to take electives too!*

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

All students must complete a criminal background check during SURG 1100 (Sept/Oct). Students with a criminal background may be ineligible to participate in clinical education, and therefore released from the program. Delays in obtaining the background check results may cause serious interruptions in the clinical rotation sequence or inability to complete the program's requirements. Students will receive information during ST Orientation. All initial background check results must be returned by December 1!

## DRUG SCREENING

All students must complete a drug screen during September/October of SURG 1100, and anytime the program or clinical site requests a screening. Students that test positive may be ineligible to participate in clinical education, and therefore released from program. Delays in obtaining the drug screen results may cause serious interruptions in the clinical rotation sequence or inability to complete the program's requirements. Students will receive information during the first week of SURG 1100. All initial drug screen results must be returned by December 1!

## CPR REQUIREMENT

All clinical sites require current American Heart Association's Basic Life Support for Healthcare Professionals certification. This is the ONLY accepted CPR certification. A copy of a current BLS card must be submitted by December 1 and maintained throughout the program. Student may not attend a clinical rotation without current AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers certification.

## PHYSICAL EXAM, VACCINATION & HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

All Health Requirements and documentation must be submitted by **December 1!**

Physical examination: Documentation of vaccination (or proof of immunity by titer) required for all of these before clinical experience (required by hospitals for clinical contract):

- ✓ Hepatitis B (full series of three shots over 7 months, or declination form)
- ✓ Varicella
- ✓ Rubella , Rubeola, D-TAP
- ✓ Annual TB test
- ✓ Annual Flu vaccine (*between early Sept & mid-Oct for ALL students*)
- ✓ Covid-19 vaccine (initial dose)

Health Insurance is required before entering the clinical setting. Student cannot attend clinicals without health insurance. Injury at clinical sites is not covered by the college or the healthcare facility. Copy of insurance card due to program director by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and maintained throughout clinical semesters.

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Surgical technology students are required to attend clinical rotations at area hospitals, and successfully complete a minimum of 120 surgical cases. All cases will be logged. For the majority of these surgical cases, the student will be in the first scrub position with a preceptor.

## CLINICAL PARTNERS

As a Lakeland surgical technology student, you will prepare to complete your clinical experiences at one of our world-class hospitals in northeast Ohio. You will work side-by-side with preceptors on highly-skilled surgical teams, gaining valuable hands-on experience.

<b>Cleveland Clinic</b>	<b>University Hospitals Health System</b>
Main Campus Hillcrest Hospital Marymount Hospital South Pointe Hospital Twinsburg Family Health & Surgery Center Beachwood Family Health & Surgery Center	Cleveland Medical Center TriPoint Medical Center Lake West Medical Center Ahuja Medical Center Geauga Medical Center

## NBSTSA CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Surgical technology students are required to take the NBSTSA Certification Exam to graduate. This exam is offered to graduating students during finals week.

For current pass rates, please visit:

<https://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/surgical-technology-departments>

## JOB PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Graduates of Lakeland's surgical technology program are highly sought after, and often have job opportunities at their clinical site. We have had over a decade with 100% job placement!

For current job placement information, please visit:

<https://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/surgical-technology-departments>

## APPROXIMATE FEES & EXPENSES

Program Requirement Item	Est. Cost
Program Fee	\$75
Tuition (see Tuition Schedule online; In-county vs. out-of-county) <a href="https://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/tuition-controller#tuitionschedule">https://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/tuition-controller#tuitionschedule</a>	\$8954 – \$10794
Textbooks (First Day Access) (estimate)	\$430
Lab fees	\$314
Surgical Counts Online Case Log & Skills Tracker	\$39.95
Background check	\$69.94
Drug screening	\$46.80
Physical exam / Vaccinations / Titers	varies
Annual TB screening	varies
Health Insurance coverage	varies
American Heart Assoc. BLS for Healthcare Providers ( <i>no other CPR accepted!</i> )	\$50
Uniforms: royal blue scrub suit (v-neck scrub top, pants)	\$15-50
NBSTSA Exam & Study materials	\$247
Graduation fee	\$40
Student Organization fee (\$5.00 per semester, optional, but recommended)	\$25
Association of Student Surgical Technologists Membership (optional)	\$45

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for Surgical Technologists

Successful surgical technologists should have the following skills. The applicants to the surgical technology program should carefully review the essential skills (ES) for the program and ask questions if not familiar with the activities or functions listed. The applicant must decide if he or she has any limitations that may restrict or interfere with satisfactory performance of any of the requirements. It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to meet these essential qualifications if accepted into the program. The applicant should consult with the program director to discuss any individual situation if he or she may not be able to meet these essential qualifications. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be considered. Professional skills (PS) will develop during the course of this program, and throughout your career. Contact the program director if you have any questions about skills needed.

### COMMUNICATION

1. Verbally communicate clearly and effectively. (ES/PS)
2. Write legibly in clear and effective English using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. (ES/PS)
3. Comprehend and follow verbal instructions in English. (ES/PS)
4. Comprehend and follow written instructions in English. (ES/PS)
5. Participate in group discussions. (ES/PS)
6. Use communication equipment – telephone, computer, other device used for communication. (ES/PS)

## PHYSICAL SKILLS

1. Possess fine and gross skills sufficient to handle equipment and provide safe and effective patient care (ES/PS)
2. Exert maximum physical force to lift or carry objects up to 25 lbs, and push or pull equipment up to 250 lbs.(oxygen cylinders, beds, patients, surgical instrument trays, case carts). (ES/PS)
3. Wear lead aprons (approx. 12 pounds) up to 8 or more hours. (PS)
4. Move safely around work area and patient care settings. (ES/PS)
5. Sustain professional activities for up to 8 or more hours. (PS)
6. Able to delay biological needs for an extended period of time (nutritional intake, restroom breaks). (PS)
7. Move upper and lower extremities, back, hips, and knees - bend, stoop, and squat. (ES/PS)
8. Keep hand and arm steady while moving arm or while holding arm and hand in one position. (ES/PS)
9. Make precise, coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects. (ES/PS)
10. Coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting or standing. (ES/PS)

## OBSERVATION AND SENSORY SKILLS

1. Auditory acuity: Ability to hear, comprehend and interpret conversation and sounds not solely based on visual cues (including alarms, monitors, faint sounds, such as heart and breath sounds, taking blood pressure).
2. Visual acuity: Ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer) and at a distance.
  - a) Function efficiently in various degrees of light, from dark to bright lighting
  - b) Differentiate colors, varying shades of same color, and shades of black, white and gray
  - c) Read fine print and hand writing.
3. Detect and distinguish odors from clients and environment.
4. Distinguish textures, degrees of firmness, temperature differences, pulse rate and vibrations; feel anatomical landmarks and veins.
5. Distinguish and describe patient affect, body language and physical responses which the patient cannot verbally relay (i.e. facial expressions, sweating, trembling, color change, bleeding, etc).

## INTELLECTUAL, COGNITIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1. Concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.
2. Apply principles of critical, logical thinking to problem solve.
3. Perform multiple tasks simultaneously and accurately.
4. Arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (alphabetize or prioritize)
5. Integrate information quickly, consistently, accurately, especially in an emergency situation

## BEHAVIORAL / SOCIAL SKILLS / ETHICS

1. Display a high level of professionalism and discretion in all actions and communication (written, oral and electronic)
2. Function effectively and display integrity, poise and emotional stability under stress (emergency, critical, or dangerous situations) in actions with all (peers, patients, staff, faculty)

3. Use team approach to carry out responsibilities.
4. Respond to all persons sensitively and respectfully.
5. Maintain general good health and self-care.
6. Display adaptability to changing environments. (PS)
7. Manage time effectively. (ES/PS)
8. Accept responsibility for own behavior and be forthright about errors or uncertainty. (ES/PS)
9. Refuse to perform or participate in any illegal, unethical or incompetent acts, to include but not limited to the following: falsifying or knowingly making incorrect entries into a patient's record or related document; copying other student's written assignments; cheating on a quiz or examination; making untrue statements to a faculty member or administrator. (ES/PS)
10. Monitor/assess performance of self, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action. (ES/PS)

## OCCUPATIONAL RISKS

Although surgical technology is a very rewarding career, it is not without risk and physical demands.

- **Physical Demands:** standing for extended periods of time, repetitive movements, awkward positions, injury from lifting & moving heavy items or patients, eye strain, unpleasant sights and smells. You must also have the ability to delay nutritional intake and other biologic functions for long periods of time.
- **Health Risks:** exposure to infectious diseases, bloodborne pathogens and other infectious materials.
- **Needlestick and Sharp Instrument Injuries:** Contact with sharp instruments during procedures can lead to injuries and potential infections.
- **Ergonomic Injuries:** Poor posture and repetitive movements can result in musculoskeletal problems.
- **High-Stress Environment:** The OR is fast-paced and demanding: it requires quick, critical thinking and precise execution of tasks.
- **Critical Situations:** Surgical technologists must be prepared to handle emergencies and maintain focus during complex or critical surgeries.
- **Emotional Toll:** Witnessing traumatic injuries or difficult outcomes during procedures can have an emotional impact on surgical technologists. Employers often offer counseling support.
- **Work Schedule:** Many surgical technologists work in hospitals, which operate around the clock, leading to night shifts, weekends, and holidays. Many times, we have irregular hours, and also on-call shifts, both of which can disrupt personal lives and lead to fatigue.

### **Mitigating Risks:**

- **Following Safety Protocols:** Strict adherence to safety protocols, such as proper lifting techniques and the use of personal protective equipment, is crucial for minimizing risks.
- **Ergonomic Adjustments:** Making ergonomic adjustments to the work environment and practicing good posture can help reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries.
- **Seeking Support:** Seeking support from colleagues or mental health professionals can help manage the emotional toll of the job.



## SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM CHECKLIST (by semester):

Due to the time required for successful completion of the surgical technology curriculum, it is highly recommended that students complete any of the following degree-required courses, prior to entering the program (especially if a part-time student!). Only students accepted into the ST program may enroll in SURG courses.



### First-Year Fall Semester

- BIOL 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I\* grade: \_\_\_\_\_
- ENGL 1110\* English Comp I (A)  
Or
- ENGL 1111 English Comp I (B)
- FYEX 1000 First Year Experience
- HLTH 1215 Medical Terminology\* grade: \_\_\_\_\_
- SURG 1100 Surg Tech I

*\*BIOL2210 and  
HLTH1215 must have a  
combined GPA of 2.50*

### First-Year Spring Semester

- BIOL 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II (-must be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall semester)
- MATH 1330 Statistics for Health Science (or higher)
- SURG 1330 Surg Tech II (includes clinicals)
- SURG 1500 Surgical Pharmacology
- SURG 2600 Surg Tech Seminar (-recommend to take this semester)

### Accelerated Summer Semester

- COMM 1100 Effective Interpersonal Communication
- SURG 2100 Surg Tech III (includes clinicals)
- BIOL 2700 Microbiology (-should be taken 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall semester at the latest)

### Second-Year Fall Semester

- SURG 2300 Surg Tech IV (includes clinicals)

*Fit in your 2 electives  
when you can!*

### Second-Year Spring Semester

- SURG 2500 Surg Tech V (includes clinicals)

### Electives:

**Arts & Humanities** (3cr) : examples: ARTS 1120, 2220, 2230; ENGL 2250, 2260, 2280, 2290; HUMX 1100, 1200; MUSC 1200, 1215, 1800, 2200; PHIL 1500, 2000; PHOT 1000

**Social & Behavioral Sciences** (3cr): examples: ANTH 1160; ECON 1150, 2500, 2600; GEOG 1500, 1600; HIST 1150, 1250, 2150, 2250 POLS 1300, 2500; PSYC 1500\*\*; SOCY 1150\*\*

*\*\*if considering a Nursing degree in the future, PSYC1500 and SOCY1150 are recommended.*

Notes:



## Surgical Technology Courses by Semester

*Consider asking your ST Program Director or Health Technologies Academic Counselor if you need help scheduling classes!*

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
First Semester (FALL-1)		SURG1100 Lecture 8am – 11:30am	SURG1100 Lab section 1 8am – 11:30am	-or- SURG1100 Lab section 2 8am – 11:30am	
Second Semester (SPRING-1)		SURG1300 Lecture 8am – 11:30am	SURG1100 Lab section 1 8am – 11:30am (FIRST HALF OF SEMESTER)	-or- SURG1300 Lab section 2 8am – 11:30am (FIRST HALF OF SEMESTER)	
	Possible Clinical Day  (Second half semester)	SURG2600 3:30p-4:20p  SURG1500 4:30p-6:20p	Possible Clinical Day  (Second half semester)		
Summer Semester			SURG2100 Lecture & Lab 8am – 2pm (includes indep work time)	Clinicals begin second half of first Spring semester, and continue until program completion.  Clinicals are 2x per week, As assigned. (ex: M/W, M/R, W/F, R/F) 6:45a – 3:30p	
Fourth Semester (FALL-2)			SURG2300 Lecture & Lab 12:45pm-4:20pm		
Fifth Semester (SPRING-2)			SURG2300 Lecture & Lab 12:45pm-4:20pm		

**NOTES:**

- Take state-required MATH1000 series course and ENGL course your first year.
- BIOL2220 A&P II should be completed prior to SURG2300
- BIOL2700 MICROBIOLOGY should be completed prior to SURG2500
- Seniors must apply for graduation before March of their graduation year.
- All health forms, vaccination requirements and background check/drug screen must be completed and submitted by December 1, or a grade of "Incomplete" will be issued for SURG1100, regardless of actual score. Clinical assignments cannot be made unless these requirements are met.
- TB Testing and Flu vaccinations must be completed annually.
- American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers card must be on file by December 1.
  - *AHA BLS course should be taken before November – many courses around the holidays are canceled!*