



## **Surgical Technology Essential Job Functions**

A candidate for the Surgical Technology program must possess abilities and skills in six categories: observation, communication, motor, intellectual, behavioral/social, and environmental. Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis, but a candidate must be able to perform in an independent manner. The following skills are required, with or without accommodation.

**OBSERVATION:** Candidates must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the classroom, the laboratory, and the clinical setting. Sensory skills adequate to perform an examination and to detect subtle surface textures are required. Functional vision, hearing, and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to discern subtle color changes in tissues, blood, and vital signs of patients.

**COMMUNICATION:** Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and health care settings. Candidates must show evidence that they possess the effective written and verbal communication skills needed to interact with patients, patients' families and professionals, and to communicate patients' needs in a prompt and effective manner. The need for effective and efficient communication is vital in the operating room. Communication among surgeon, surgical technologist, and operating room staff is a quintessential element in quality patient care.

**MOTOR:** Candidates must exhibit the fine motor function needed to execute movements required in patient care. Candidates must be able to negotiate patient care environments and must be able to move between settings, such as clinical and classroom buildings. Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, and moving are required in classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. Candidates must be able to assist in lifting patients who may be comatose, paralyzed, or otherwise incapacitated, from wheelchairs and beds to operating tables. Candidates must be capable of lifting, moving and pushing heavy equipment, such monitors, laparoscopic equipment, and robotics; and they must be able to reach overhead to adjust operating room lights.

**INTELLECTUAL:** Candidates must be able measure, reason and analyze problems and feel at ease in an operating room. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures. Candidates must be able to read and understand scientific literature. In order to complete the surgical technology degree, candidates must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in a timely fashion in problem-solving and patient care.

**BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL:** Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team are essential. The surgical technologist role requires flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills, concern for others, and the ability to function in the face of the uncertainties and stress inherent in clinical practice.

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** Candidates must be able to function in an environment that requires use of agents for infection control, such as latex gloves, masks, protective eye wear, and surgical gowns, as well as

chemical solutions and aerosols used to kill pathogens. Note: Students will be exposed to many latex products.

Students admitted to the program will receive a copy of these standards, and will be required to sign and return a written acknowledgment that they understand them. Students may request accommodation to one or more technical standards based on disability. Such accommodation will be provided in accordance with College rules and state and federal guidelines. See Penn College Disability Services <http://www.pct.edu/disabilityservices/> for further information. Students must be able to meet the program, course, and lesson objectives.