

Surgical Technologist



What do they do?

Surgical Technologists assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms for surgery, ensure all supplies are ready, prepare the patient for their procedure, and pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and nurses during surgery.

Surgical Technologists must be able to work as part of a team in high-pressure situations. They are responsible for knowing what tools are needed for a procedure and for keeping them sterile.

Where do they work?

Over two-thirds of Surgical Technologists work in a hospital environment. Others may work in private physician's offices.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Surgical Technologists is \$49,710.

Education:

A two-year associate's degree is required to become a Surgical Technologist.

Surgical Technology training in Madison:

Madison College: www.madisoncollege.edu

High School students interested in becoming a Surgical Technologist should take classes in biology, algebra, anatomy & physiology, chemistry and medical terminology.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Surgical Technologists are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC/STSA).

www.caahep.org

www.arcst.org



Professional Associations:

Surgical Technologists can choose to join any of the following professional associations. Some also provide certification:

Association of Surgical Technologists:

www.ast.org



Certification:

A Surgical Technologist has better chances at employment if they become certified before they can be employed. The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting administers the exam.

Certified Surgical Technologist (CST): <https://www.nbstsa.org/>



Potential for Advancement:

A Surgical Technologist may be able to specialize in a certain area of surgery. Some move from the operating room and use their training in the following areas:

Central Supply Distribution:

Purchases, inventories, stores and distributes medical/surgical supplies, equipment and linen for an entire institution.

Reprocessing:

Decontaminates, packages and sterilizes medical instruments, supplies and equipment.

Surgical Technologists with experience can take on leadership roles in their department. They may also continue their education into other healthcare occupations such as a Physician Assistant or Registered Nurse.



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Surgical Technologists is expected to grow 9 percent between 2020-2030, which is about as fast as the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Surgical Technologists, www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm (visited September 08, 2021).

