

WORKING TO BE A

Surgical Technologist



What type of education does it take to become a surgical technologist?

- A high school diploma or equivalent is required
- You also need to complete a surgical technician or technologist training program that is accredited by the American Medical Association
- The programs last from 9-24 months and lead to a diploma, certificate or associate's degree

What licenses or certifications are required to become a surgical technologist?

- Most employers want to hire certified technologists; certification can be earned through two different centers

What do surgical technologists do?

- Help get the operating room ready by setting up all the surgical instruments and equipment that will be needed
- Prepare all sterile and non-sterile equipment and adjust and check all the equipment to make sure it is working correctly
- May prepare patients for surgery by cleaning, shaving, and disinfecting the body areas that will be the focus of the operation
- Transport the patients to the operating room and help position them on the operating table; after the surgery they take them back to the recovery room
- Observe patients' vital signs, check charts, and help the surgical team put on sterile gowns and gloves
- Help pass instruments and supplies to the surgeons and assistants
- Hold retractors, cut sutures, and keep track of the items used during surgery
- Help care for and dispose of specimens that were taken for testing during operations
- Help apply dressings and bandages

What is the work environment like for a surgical technologist?

- Work in clean, brightly lit, fairly quiet, cool rooms, generally in hospitals
- Must stand for long periods and stay alert during operations
- Because they assist in surgery they may be around unpleasant sights, odors, and materials and may be around communicable diseases
- Surgical technologists usually work a regular 40 hour week but they may be on-call or rotate working nights, weekends and holidays

What is the normal pay range for a surgical technologist?

- \$10.57–\$20.90 per hour

The Source

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What Source partners offer training to be a surgical technologist?

- Owens Community College

Your Source for information to overcome life's barriers and be successful!

How can a surgical technologist grow in their field?

- Through continued training, certification, and experience a surgical technologist can become a surgical first assistant, an operating room administrator, or a registered nurse