

# Surgical Technology

This program prepares graduates to assist the surgeon and other members of the operating room team. Duties may include such tasks as setting up sterile trays and equipment for procedures; scrubbing for procedures with the surgeon; draping patients, passing instruments, and holding retractors; sterilizing instruments and supplies; and maintaining stock inventory. The program consists of theory and practical experience in the operating room setting. Courses must be taken sequentially and include summer school. Graduates are qualified to take the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting national certification examination.

Surgical technologists with additional training and certification may serve additional roles within the operation room. These may include a variety of duties as prescribed by the surgeon on duty. Some workers are assigned specific duties such as a Hemostasis technologist who controls blood to prevent hemorrhaging. Other technologists meet with the patient before the surgery and prepare them for the operating room. There are many individual jobs that can be fulfilled by a surgical technologist.

The CST Exam Pass Rate for 2017 was 81.8%.

## Skills and Competencies

Surgical Technicians work in many different capacities in the surgical field. The main responsibility of the Surgical Technologist is to open, organize, and maintain the "Sterile Field" and provide the necessary equipment and instrumentation for the Surgeon to perform the operation. They also may be expected to assist the surgeon on some procedures. Applicants into the field will have to be able to work well under pressure and often times tense situations.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### Surgical Technology Core

CLS204	Clinical Microbiology (2 cr.)
ST101	Clinical Assisting (1 cr.)
ST111	Basic Surgical Concepts/Techniques (3 cr.)
ST211	General Surgical Procedures (4 cr.)
ST212	Specialty Surgical Procedures/ Pharmacology (4 cr.)
ST220	Issues/Seminar for ST (2 cr.)
ST250	Clinical Practice (2 cr.)
ST260	Surgical Technology Practicum (14 cr.)

### Other Required Courses

BI207	Human Anatomy I (4 cr.)
BI208	Human Physiology II (4 cr.)
CLS109	Introduction to Diagnostic Sciences (1 cr.)
HL125	Emergency Health Care for the Health Professional (3 cr.)
CLS171	Medical Terminology (4 cr.)

### General Education

EN111	College Composition I (4 cr.)
EN211	College Composition II (4 cr.)
	Social Responsibility in a Diverse World Elective

*Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).*

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Additional Considerations

Surgical Technology is an Associate of Applied Sciences that requires 68 credits to finish. This is designed as a four semester program.

An associate degree is required as the minimum for entry into the field, but a bachelor's or master's degree may be required for additional advancement, requirements and benefits.

This degree can be used towards the Clinical Health Science bachelor's degree.

## Job Outlook

Surgical Technology is projected to grow 12% from 2019 to 2026, faster than the average rate in the coming years. The field figures to expand at a 30% rate. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being performed. The median salary for this position is \$46,310.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Surgical Technology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Dental Assistant

Medical Hospital Assistant

Surgical Assistant

Surgical First Assistant

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

School of Clinical Sciences  
3515 West Science  
906-227-2885  
[www.nmu.edu/clinicalsciences](http://www.nmu.edu/clinicalsciences)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3502 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Surgical Technology Club  
1513 West Science  
906-227-2125  
[www.nmu.edu/cls](http://www.nmu.edu/cls)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org) -Assoc. of Surgical Technologists  
[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org) -Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
[www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org) -National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2021



What to do with  
a major in...

## Surgical Technology

Associate's Degree

