

UtahStateUniversity
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Updated July 2024

UtahStateUniversityTM
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**Surgical Technology
Program**

Application and Information Packet
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DEADLINE: First Friday in August for Fall Semester

Health Professions Program at Utah State University

Surgical Technology

The Surgical Technology (ST) Program is an Associate of Science Degree program that can be completed in four semesters, after completing one semester of prerequisites. The prerequisites must be completed prior to the student applying for and being accepted into the ST Program. Surgical Technologists assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel. They must be knowledgeable in preparing the operating room, establishing and maintaining the sterile field, aseptic technique, and setting up surgical equipment, supplies, and solutions.

During surgery the surgical technologist passes instruments, fluids, medications, and supplies to the surgeon; anticipating the needs of the surgeon for any given surgical procedure. Students receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology from Utah State University upon completion of academic coursework and clinical experience.

Upon the successful completion of coursework and prior to graduation, students must sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) certification exam administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). If the student successfully passes this exam, they will be conferred the title of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST). The USU ST curriculum was developed utilizing the curriculum recommendations of the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Core Curriculum, 6th edition (AST Core Curriculum 7th Edition may be available in Fall Semester, 2024). Students successfully completing the program will be well prepared for a career as an entry-level (advanced beginner) surgical technologist.

Surgical Technology Entrance Requirements

Utah State University has an open admission policy. Applicants will be admitted without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status. In addition, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for employees in all aspects of employment and for students in academic programs and activities is prohibited. High school graduation or a GED is required to be accepted into the program. Acceptance into this program will be by the application process.

Admissions Procedures (2-STEPS)

1. **STEP ONE:** As a perspective student, you must first apply for admission to become a Utah State University student. To be officially admitted to USU as a full-time student, an applicant must submit the following:
 - A. A completed [Application for Admission](#).
 - B. A \$50 nonrefundable application fee (**NON-RESIDENTS ONLY**).
 - C. Official high school transcript or GED
 - D. Official ACT or SAT scores (optional)
 - E. Concurrent enrollment transcripts

All students entering the ST Program will submit a declaration of the ST major through the Application for Admission. Students desiring to change their majors after acceptance are required to complete a change of major form at the Admissions and Records Office.

Notification of acceptance and resident status will be sent from the Health Professions Department

Chairperson. If a student's application is incomplete at the time of registration, the student will not be admitted to the program. Students applying for financial aid must be high school graduates or GED recipients, and be matriculated before receiving aid.

Returning Students

A student who has been away for more than three years must submit a new application for admission. Those who have attended other colleges or universities in the interim will be asked to submit transcripts of all college credits.

Enrollment Prior to High School Graduation

An academically-qualified high school student who wishes to enroll at USU Eastern, USU Blanding, or USU Moab must fill out a Concurrent Enrollment-Early College form as well as a Student Acknowledgement & Parental Consent Agreement form. **Students may work concurrently on high school classes and the college courses required for acceptance into the ST Program while still in high school.**

Transfer Students

A transfer student from another college or university must submit the following:

1. **A completed USU Application for Admission.**
2. A \$50 one-time nonrefundable application fee (NON-RESIDENTS ONLY).
3. Official transcripts of all previous college work. (Official transcripts must be sent directly from the previous school. Hand-carried transcripts will not be accepted.)
4. A transfer student cannot transfer credits with D or E (F) grades or credits from developmental or remedial courses. **Grades of C or better will be allowed for all classes required for the Program. Credits from remedial classes will not be accepted.**
5. The student must be in good standing and eligible to re-enroll at the college or university where they were most recently registered.
6. Transfer students will not be matriculated until official transcripts of all high school previous college or university work are submitted to USU Eastern Price, USU Moab, or USU Blanding.

Students with Disabilities

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires reasonable accommodation, that student should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Students may contact the DRC to determine if they qualify for accommodations. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, sensory, emotional, physical, or medical impairments. Students may call directly to the USU DRC at 1-435-797-2444. Students should contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible.

2. **STEP TWO:** To apply to the ST Program once you have become a USU student you must:

A. Complete the Surgical Technician Online Application:

<https://caas.usu.edu/health-professions/surgical-technician-application>

OR meet with advisor:

Marla Palomares Ruiz, Advisor for Health Professions
Utah State University Blanding and Moab Campuses
HSL Building Room 201B
576 West 200 South Blanding, UT 84511
(You may mail applications to this address)
435-678-8221
marla.palomaresruiz@usu.edu

OR

Danyan Powell, Advisor for Health Professions
Utah State University Eastern Campus
451 East 400 North, One-Stop Building Room 111
Price, UT 84501
435-613-5351
danyan.powell@usu.edu

- B. Students must have a minimum **GPA of 3.00 for admittance** into the program and **maintain a 3.00 GPA throughout the program**
- C. **Advising** - Students interested in the ST Program must complete an ST Program Application, be accepted, and provide all required documents **PRIOR** to registering for classes.
- D. **Program Costs** – Students are responsible for tuition, course fees and student fees. For information on tuition, course fees and student fees, please visit:
https://www.usu.edu/budget/files/tuition_and_fees/2024-25-usu-tuition-fee-schedule.pdf
(Scroll down to Statewide Campuses (Blanding, Price, Moab))
- E. **Registration Date and Time** - Please visit the USU Eastern, USU Blanding, or USU Moab Website for registration information.
- F. **Background Check** - The background check must be ordered and/or uploaded to your Compliance Tracker packet through CastleBranch. Please use this link:
portal.castlebranch.com/ut61 *A fee will be charged.*
- G. **Drug Screen** - Students on Blanding campus **ONLY** must visit with the Health Professions Staff Assistant at the Health Professions Building, 344 West 800 North, to complete the Drug Screen. For USU Eastern students and USU Moab students, please see your Health Professions advisor for the drug screening process.
- H. **Required Immunizations** - All immunizations below are required. All records must be complete and on file with Program Director **PRIOR** to beginning your program:
Hepatitis B
- Provide written evidence from your healthcare provider or immunization record

indicating the three (3) dates you have received the vaccine series, **AND**

- Provide written documentation of titer results as “Reactive.”

Tuberculosis

- 2-step TST (two separate Tuberculin Skin Tests, aka PPD) placed no sooner than seven (7) days apart. The 2-step TST must be completed at the time the student begins the ST program. **OR**
- One (1) QuantiFERON Gold blood test with negative result **OR**
- One (1) T-SPOT blood test with negative result.
- If there is history of a positive TB skin test, the student must see a physician for evaluation of risk **AND** have a chest x-ray report showing no evidence of active disease.

Tdap

- One (1) adult dose of Tdap is required for the USU ST Program. A tetanus/diphtheria (Td) booster is required if 10 years have elapsed since the last booster.

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all healthcare personnel, regardless of age, should receive a single dose of Tdap as soon as feasible if they have not previously received Tdap regardless of the time since last Td dose.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

- Students must provide written evidence of the required two (2) vaccines; **OR**
- Provide written documentation of titer results (blood test). Verbal history of disease is NOT reliable and will not be accepted.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

- Proof of two (2) Varicella vaccinations **OR**
- Proof of immunity to Varicella through a blood titer.

Flu (Influenza)

- Students must provide written evidence of having received the seasonal flu vaccine by October of current year.
- Students must maintain compliance with annual flu vaccinations during their enrollment in the ST program.

• **Covid -19**

- Students should have two vaccinations + one booster.

To complete the program successfully, students will need to be fully vaccinated against SARS Covid-19 virus. This is required by our clinical affiliates in order for students to enter their facilities to complete clinical rotations.

I. Health Requirements

- **Basic Cardiac Life Support** - Prior to the designated deadline, all students are required to show proof of certification in Basic Cardiac Life Support. Students may enter the program without certification, but must obtain BLS certification during the first semester of the cohort. Each student must maintain current certification throughout their educational experience.
- **HIPAA and Blood borne Pathogens** - Each student will sign a statement reflecting they have received instruction and understand Blood borne Pathogen Exposure and HIPAA compliance prior to attending clinical rotations.
- **Physical Health** - Physical health is defined as being free of disabling and contagious disease, being able to perform fine and gross motor skills, being able to perform normal weight-bearing ambulatory activities as well as abstaining from illegal use of controlled substances or abuse of alcohol or prescribed medication.

All students are required to meet these essential functions with or without accommodations for disability:

- Stand or sit for 10 hours per day.
- Push and pull 50 pounds.
- Lift and support 25 pounds.
- Move within confined spaces.
- Manipulate suture as fine as a human hair either with/without glasses or contacts.
- Effective verbal communication in English without visual clues.
- Hear normal speaking level sounds.
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., when masks are used).
- Communicate verbally with others.

If a physical condition threatens to prevent satisfactory performance, the applicant is counseled and referred to an appropriate professional. An applicant who has had an existing problem(s) (physical or emotional) must provide certification from a physician that the condition(s) is/are stable and the student is able to participate fully in the program. A plan of treatment for said condition(s) is to be in the applicant's file in the ST Program Director's Office, which is kept in a locked file drawer.

- **Emotional Health** - Emotional health is defined as reacting appropriately to stressful situations, coping with every day environmental stresses with little difficulty, using healthy coping mechanisms, and understanding one's own ability to cope with stressful situations. Assessment of the emotional health of an applicant is made through the use of physical examinations, personal conferences, references, and letters from mental health care providers if intensive therapy is in progress or has occurred, and psychological evaluations if necessary.

The program faculty believes that the practice of surgical technology involves cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Therefore, the essential eligibility requirements for participants in an ST education program shall be further defined according to the previously listed physical and emotional requirements.

Waivers:

A student may receive a waiver on health grounds if he or she presents a written statement from a healthcare provider indicating that immunization against any or all of the diseases for which immunization is required is medically contraindicated, detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the student. Specific reasons should be noted, such as allergy to components of the vaccine. The physician's statement shall document whether the contraindication is permanent or temporary, and if temporary, provide assurance that the student will receive the immunization(s) at the first reasonable opportunity. (For example, rubella vaccine should not be given to pregnant women.) If the student fails to complete the immunizations and provide evidence of same, the student will not be permitted to enter or remain in the program. If the student objects to any immunization due to religious beliefs, he or she must submit a signed written statement stating that they have chosen not to be immunized because he or she is an adherent to a religion the teachings of which are opposed to such immunizations.

Students who are unwilling or unable to comply with the immunization policy of the ST Program must understand that some clinical agencies prohibit the presence of unvaccinated students at their facility. While USU will make reasonable efforts to find appropriate alternate clinical rotations for these students, there is always the risk the student will not be permitted to complete clinical or practicum rotations which are a required part of the ST curriculum.

**Students will be required to turn in this packet to the Health Professions Advisor with all of the above records. Students should keep a copy of all records for their own files.*

NOTES:

Moving out of the ST Program service area may adversely impact the student's ability to

successfully complete the ST Program or gain employment in the Surgical Technology field.

The USU ST program is offered as a hybrid (blended-course) delivery. There are no additional costs or requirements for distance education students.

Competitive Ranking

The USU ST Program accepts a maximum of 25 students per cohort. Should the number of applicants exceed the number allowed, then competitive ranking will happen. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number listed above, then the admission process becomes competitive and the selection criteria of the top applicants for the program are based on a ranking system. This system is utilized to determine the most qualified students based on their performance on the Accuplacer/ALEKS Placement, or ACT. Ranking will be awarded as follows: (50%) university or high school cumulative GPA, (25%) and points awarded for courses completed in the Surgical Technology pre-requisites, previously earned degree(s), and health care related work experience (25%). The program does not grant advanced placement for experiential learning.

If the number of qualified applicants does not exceed the maximum number allowed, the applicants will be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting or meet with the Program Director.

Clinical Orientation

Prior to initiating any clinical or externship experience, students are required to attend an orientation with the sites they will be attending for their surgical experience. At times, this may require students completing experience at more than one hospital to attend orientations for each hospital they will be working under.

Clinical Experience

Surgical Clinicals and Externships: Our ST students will train in various surgical settings. After students demonstrate proficiency of assigned skills in surgical lab, students may begin practicing skills in the clinical setting under the direct supervision of an experienced surgical technologist or registered nurse. These clinical rotations are an important part of the program. Students must commit to attending all surgical rotations for which they have been scheduled. Students are responsible for travel costs and must have a reliable source of transportation to their clinical rotations.

The USU Surgical Technology Program utilizes the following training facilities:

- Blue Mountain Hospital – Blanding, UT
- Castleview Hospital – Price, UT
- Moab Regional Hospital – Moab, UT
- San Juan Hospital – Monticello, UT
- Southwest Memorial Hospital – Cortez, CO
- Mercy Medical Center – Durango, CO
- Intermountain Healthcare: Utah Valley Regional Medical Center – Provo, UT

Application packet deadline: 1st Friday of August for Fall Cohort

The Surg Tech Application must be submitted by the first Friday of August for the Fall Cohort. Cohorts start annually each Fall semester. Total minimum credit hours (including pre-reqs.) required for Surgical Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree: **67-69 Semester Hours** (which includes 120 completed surgical cases). Students must have prerequisite courses completed with a **minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher to be admitted, and maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the program.**

PREREQUISITES:

COURSE	Credit Hours
HEAL 1500* – Anatomy & Physiology	3
HEAL 1008* – Medical Terminology	2
MATH 1050* – College Algebra	4 OR
STATS 1080 – Foundations of Data Science	3 OR
STATS 1045 – Introduction to Statistics with elements of Algebra	5
<u>ENGL 1010* – Introduction to Writing</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	11-13

*Courses can be taken in high school for concurrent enrollment

SEMESTER ONE

COURSE	Credit Hours
BIOL 2060 – Microbiology	4
SURG 1030 – Surgical Technology I Didactic	6
SURG 1035 – Surgical Technology I Laboratory	4
<u>SURG 1600 – Surgical Technology Clinical Competencies I</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	16

SEMESTER TWO

COURSE	Credit Hours
SURG 1040 – Surgical Technology II Didactic	6
SURG 1045 – Surgical Technology II Laboratory II	2
<u>SURG 1700 – Surgical Technology Clinical Competencies II</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	12

SEMESTER THREE

COURSE	Credit Hours
SURG 1050 – Surgical Technology III Didactic	6
SURG 1055 – Surgical Technology III Laboratory	2
<u>SURG 1800 – Surgical Technology Clinical Competencies III</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	14

SEMESTER FOUR

COURSE	Credit Hours
SURG 1060 – Surgical Technology IV Didactic	6
SURG 1065 – Surgical Technology IV Laboratory	2
<u>SURG 1900 – Surgical Technology Clinical Competencies IV</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	14

National Certification and Examination:

Credentialing in ST is required by an increasing number of states, in order to work in the field and is often required by employers. Although in the state of Utah a Surgical Technologist can work without certification, the program feels that students are more marketable and can work in more states with the CST Certification and therefore require our students to sit for the exam.

In order to take the Surgical Technology Certification (CST) Exam, the student must complete the application, apply for the AST National Certification exam, and pay for the cost of the exam. The cost is \$190.00 for AST members and \$290.00 for nonmembers. **These costs are covered through student fees.** Each student enrolled in the ST Program will be administered the AST National Certification exam upon completion of all ST Program requirements and prior to graduation. The CST exam serves as the final exam for SURG 1060.

Accreditation

Utah State University Eastern and Utah State University Blanding are programmatically accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). ABHES is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency under the provision of Chapter 33, Title 38 of the U.S. Code and subsequent legislation. ABHES provides Utah State University Eastern and Utah State University Blanding campuses programmatic accreditations for the delivery of an Associate of Applied Science level degree.

Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)**6116 Executive Blvd. Suite 730****North Bethesda, Maryland 20852****(703) 917-9503****www.abhes.org**

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Surgical Technology Admissions Checklist

- Online application and acceptance to USU Blanding, Moab, or Eastern
- Submit completed Application for ST Program with copy of GED/HS/College transcripts.
- Submit ST Student Contractual Agreement from student handbook by the first day of class.
- Complete Blood-Borne Pathogens & HIPPA during first week of semester one.
- Complete Background Check through Castlebranch.
- Complete Drug Screen. Blanding students pay the HP staff for drug screen to be completed at the HP Building. For Moab and Price Campuses, see your Campus HP Advisor for drug screen process.
- Submit Student Health History/Immunization Form (from Student Handbook).
- Immunization record from healthcare provider to document (see page 4):
 - Hepatitis B vaccination series completed with “reactive” titer
 - 2-step TB skin test (within past 12 months)
 - Tdap (1 adult dose)/Td booster (if 10 years since last Tdap)
 - MMR x 2
 - Varicella x 2
 - Influenza annually
 - Covid-19 x 2 plus booster
- Pre-requisite:
 - ENGL 1010
 - MATH 1050 or STATS 1045 or STATS 1080
 - HEAL 1008
 - HEAL 1500

***Application packet deadline: Cohorts begin each Fall Semester.
Packet Deadline is the first Friday of August.***

Marla Palomares Ruiz, Advisor for Health Professions
Utah State University Blanding and Moab
HSL Building Room 201B
576 West 200 South Blanding, UT 84511
(You may mail applications to this address)
435-678-8221 <mailto:marla.palomaresruiz@usu.edu>

OR

Danyan Powell, Advisor for Health Professions
Utah State University Eastern
451 East 400 North, One-Stop Bldg, Rm 111
Price, UT 84501
435-613-5351 danyan.powell@usu.edu

Surg Tech Application can be filled out and submitted online at:
<https://caas.usu.edu/health-professions/surgical-technician-application>

Note: A copy of the above documentation needs to be maintained and updated as appropriate by the

UtahStateUniversity®

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

DEADLINE: First Friday in August for Fall Semester

Application

Name (Print) _____
Last First Middle

Names Previously used: _____

Student USU A#: _____ Campus attending: _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ High School Attended _____

Email address _____
(This email will be used to contact you about the Surg Tech Program)

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

I have provided true, complete and correct information on this application. I have read and understand the information presented in this packet.

Signature _____ Date _____

Surgical Technology Student Checklist

Name	Prereqs	
A#	ENGL 1010-Introduction to Writing	
GPA	HEAL 1500-Anatomy & Physiology	
CUM	HEAL 1008-Medical Terminology	
	STAT 1045- Intro to Stats with Algebra OR	
	MATH 1050-College Algebra	
	Core Classes	
SEM 1	BIOL 2060 - Microbiology	
	SURG 1030 - Surgical Technology I	
	SURG 1035 - Surgical Technology I Lab	
	SURG 1600 - Surgical Tech Clinical Comp I	
SEM 2	SURG 1040 - Surgical Technology II	
	SURG 1045 - Surgical Technology II Lab	
	SURG 1700 - Surgical Tech Clinical Comp II	
SEM 3	SURG 1050 - Surgical Technology III	
	SURG 1055 - Surgical Technology III Lab	
	SURG 1800 - Surgical Tech Clinical Comp III	
SEM 4	SURG 1060 - Surgical Technology IV	
	SURG 1065 - Surgical Technology IV Lab	
	SURG 1900 - Surgical Tech Clinical Comp IV	
	Application	
	Background Check	
	Immunizations	
	CPR requirement	
	Drug Screening	
	High School Attestation	
	Enrollment Agreement	
	AST Membership Fee	
	State Exam Fee	
	Physical Location Attestation	