

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS / OCCUPATION RISK OF A SURGICAL TECH

Purpose: To provide the applicant/student with a clear understanding of the demands required of the student/graduate of the Surgical Technology Program based on the tasks performed by the surgical technologist.

Essential Observation Requirements:

1. Demonstrate visual ability to load fine suture onto needles with/without corrective lenses and while wearing safety glasses.
2. Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function in the surgical environment.

Essential Movement Requirements:

1. Move freely and safely about the operating room.
2. Stand, bend, stoop, and/or sit for long periods of time in one location with minimum/no movement.
3. Manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment with speed, dexterity, and good eye-hand coordination.
4. Assist with and/or lift, move, position, and manipulate, with or without assistive devices, the patient who is unconscious.

Essential Intellectual Requirements:

1. Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis comparison, self-expression, and criticism.
2. Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations.

Essential Communication Requirements:

1. Read and comprehend technical and professional materials (i.e., textbooks, magazine and journal articles, handbooks, and instruction manuals).
2. Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform surgical skills.
3. Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips.
4. Hear activation/warning signals on equipment.
5. Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff and other health care professionals verbally and in a recorded format (writing, typing, graphics or telecommunication).

Essential Behavioral Requirements:

1. Be free of reportable communicable diseases and chemical abuse.
Demonstrate immunity to rubella, rubeola, tuberculosis, and hepatitis B, or be vaccinated against these diseases, or be willing to sign a waiver of release of liability with regard to these diseases.
2. Make appropriate judgments and decisions.
3. Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills under stress.
4. Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in emergency situations.
5. Demonstrate positive interpersonal skills in patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
6. Be honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible.
7. Be able to accept constructive criticism and look for ways to improve.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE/RISK STATEMENT

Applicants considering a career in an Allied Health Program should be aware that during their course of study and in subsequent employment in the field, they are likely to work in situations where exposure to infectious disease will occur. This is an occupational risk for all healthcare workers. Persons should not become healthcare workers unless they recognize and accept this risk. Proper education and strict adherence to well-established infection-control guidelines can reduce the risk. Thorough education in infection control procedures is an important part of each program of study.