

Surgical Technology, AAS

School of Health Professions

Program Description

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings such as medical offices, out-patient clinics, and the operating room. The program prepares competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. Students will sit for the practice CST exam upon completion of the program.

Getting Started: General Application Process for Health Professions Programs

- Apply to be a Westmoreland County Community College Student.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.
- Applicants for the Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession programs must be a Westmoreland County Community College student and have an active Student ID and college email account.
- Applicants for the Health Professions Programs must also have attended any college required planning sessions and placement assessment(s) and completed any developmental coursework that may be required based upon the assessment evaluation prior to applying for the selected Health Profession.
- Complete and submit an application for the specific Health Profession Program (Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Expanded Functions Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing, Surgical Technology or Radiology).
- Submit all required documents to the College by the deadline.
- Qualified applicants to the Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Nursing Program will be invited to take the standardized entrance examination. The score on this examination is utilized in the selective admissions process. You may only take this examination once per admission cycle.
- Preference for admissions will be given to students who exceed minimum criteria

Special Admission and Selection Criteria for the Associate Degree Surgical Technology Program

Guidelines: Applicants to the associate degree surgical technology program must submit the appropriate forms to the Admissions Office.

Criteria:

- High school transcript validating the successful completion of academic work equivalent to a standard high school program with a minimum of 16 units:
 - English (4 units)

- Social studies (3 units)
- Mathematics (2 units, one each in algebra required)
- Science (2 units in chemistry and biology with related laboratory)
- If high school algebra, chemistry and biology were not successfully completed with a "C" grade or better, applicants may meet these application requirements by completing MTH 052, MTH 052A, CHM 107, and BIO 107 with a "C" grade or better.
- Applicants who have completed 15 or more credits towards a GPA at WCCC must attain a 2.5 GPA:
 - Students with less than 15 credits will be evaluated based on:
 - A minimum 2.5 GPA overall if the applicant has completed 15 or more college-level credits at other post-secondary institutions OR
 - A minimum 3.0 High School GPA OR
 - A minimum 165 on the GED (minimum 15 on HiSET subtests)
 - If GPA is less than 2.5, one or more of these courses may be repeated to meet the requirements before testing.
 - Transfer courses are not calculated into the GPA

Preference may be given to applicants who exceed the minimums. For Fall Start:

Application Deadline May 1st prior to fall start Acceptance Notification May 30th.

Final Admission Criteria

Students accepted into the School of Health Professions are required to have a health clearance, criminal background check, child abuse history and drug screening at the student's expense.

The Program Director of each Health Profession Program gives the accepted student directions for setting up a password-secure Castle Branch Account.

Castle Branch is the background screening and compliance tracking company, which provides Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs with student background screening services.

Castle Branch background screening and compliance management includes:

- Background Checks (FBI Fingerprint Check, Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearances)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Immunization and Record Tracking
- Houses Tuberculosis screening results
- CPR Training Documentation
- Liability Insurance (if applicable for program)
- Houses the results of the Required Health Physical

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Final admission is conditional pending:

- Receipt of Urine Drug Screen to determine if there are any substances that will prevent the applicant from participating in clinical experiences or bar entry into Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt and evaluation of Criminal Background Check to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt of proof of vaccinations including, but not limited to, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, HepB, Flu, and COVID-19 that are necessary to participate in clinical experiences.
- Receipt of Child Abuse History to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Communicate Effectively
- Read and listen with comprehension.
- Speak and write clearly using Standard English.
- Interact cooperatively with others using both verbal and non-verbal means.
- Demonstrate information processing through basic computer skills.
- Think Critically
- Make connections in learning across the disciplines and draw logical conclusions.
- Demonstrate problem solving through interpreting, analyzing, summarizing, and/or integrating a variety of materials.
- Use mathematics to organize, analyze, and synthesize data to solve a problem.
- Learn Independently
- Use appropriate search strategies and resources to find, evaluate, and use information.
- Make choices based upon awareness of ethics and differing perspectives/ideas.
- Apply learning in academic, personal and public situations.
- Think creatively to develop new ideas, processes, or products.
- Examine Relationships in Diverse and Complex Environments
- Recognize the relationship of the individual to human heritage and culture.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship of the individual to the biological and physical environment.
- Develop an awareness of self as an individual member of a multicultural global community.
- Correlate the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and microbiology to their role as a Surgical Technologist.
- Demonstrate a safe and professional level of practice and knowledge in their role as a Surgical Technologist.
- Explain the ethical, legal, moral, and medical values related to the patient and the surgical team during the perioperative experience.
- Correlate the elements, action, and use of medications and anesthetic agents used during the perioperative experience
- Implement safe practice techniques in regards to perioperative routines, patient transportation, positioning, and emergency procedures.
- Integrate principles of surgical asepsis as part of the perioperative experience.
- Accurately apply knowledge and skills of a professional Surgical Technologist to address the biopsychosocial needs of the surgical patient.
- Perform proficiently and competently as an entry-level surgical technologist in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains
- Demonstrate the professional attributes of the Surgical Technologist

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Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr	Term Offered	Prereq/Coreq(Co)	Options Available
1st Fall	1	PDV 101	First Year Seminar	1	F, Sp, Su		
	2	ALH 122	Medical Terminology	3	F, Sp, Su		
	3	BIO 171	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better) and ENG 095 or Placement	
	4	MTH 104	Introduction to Applied Mathematics	4	F, Sp, Su	MTH 050 or Placement	Column IV on p 46
	5	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement; Co: ENG 095 or ENG 099 or Placement	
1st Spring	6	BIO 172	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171 with a "C" grade or better	
	7	ENG 164	Advanced Composition	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
	8	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3	F, Sp, Su		
	9	PSY 160	General Psychology	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Summer	10	BIO 265	Microbiology	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 155 or BIO 171 and CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better), ENG 085 or Placement	
2nd Fall	11	SGT 100	Fundamentals of Surgical Technology	12	F	Minimum of a "C" grade in ALH 122, BIO 171, BIO 172, BIO 265	
	12	SGT 101	Fundamentals of Surgical Technology Lab	3	F	Minimum of a "C" grade in ALH 122, BIO 171, BIO 172, BIO 265	
	13	SGT 110	Surgical Pharmacology Principles	2	F	Minimum of a "C" grade in ALH 122, BIO 171, BIO 172, BIO 265	
	14	SGT 115	Surgical Technology Skills Practicum	3	F	SGT 101	
2nd Spring	15	SGT 200	Advanced Surgical Technology Theory	9	Sp	Minimum of a "C" grade in SGT 100, SGT 110, SGT 115	
	16	SGT 205	Advanced Surgical Technology Practicum	7	Sp	Minimum of a "C" grade in SGT 100, SGT 110, SGT 115	

Total Program Credits

68

SGT