

## **Technical Standards**

### **Essential Skills for the Surgical Technologist**

*Requirements of the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST)*

All students must meet the following technical standards as outlined by the accrediting association. These are essential for safe and competent participation in the Surgical Technology Program and clinical practice.

### **Physical Standards**

- Ability to bend and stoop; stand and/or sit for extended periods without breaks
- Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds to assist with patient movement
- Ability to refrain from food, drink, and restroom breaks for up to 6 hours or more
- Visual acuity sufficient to load a fine (10-0) suture onto needle holders, with or without corrective lenses, and while wearing safety glasses
- Peripheral vision sufficient to anticipate and function safely within the sterile environment
- Ability to hear and understand muffled communication without lip reading at a distance of up to 20 feet
- Ability to hear activation and warning signals on surgical equipment
- Ability to detect odors relevant to environmental safety and patient care
- Manual dexterity, speed, and eye–hand coordination to manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment efficiently
- Ability to ambulate independently without assistive devices
- Ability to assist with lifting, moving, positioning, and manipulating unconscious patients, with or without assistive devices

### **Communication and Comprehension Standards**

- Proficiency in fluent English, both verbal and written, to accurately understand and convey health-care information and ensure patient safety
- Ability to interact respectfully and effectively with surgeons, patients, families, and team members from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating professionalism, tact, teamwork, and discretion.

### **Mental and Attitudinal Standards**

- Functional short- and long-term memory to manage surgical supplies and perform intraoperative anticipation
- Ability to make sound and appropriate clinical judgments
- Use of constructive coping mechanisms under stress
- Ability to remain calm and respond appropriately in emergency situations

- Professional behavior during all interactions with patients, staff, faculty, and peers, as required by the STCC Surgical Technology Program

### **Health Standards (Final)**

- Free of reportable communicable diseases and **chemical impairment** (including **alcohol, marijuana**, or illicit substances) while participating in program and clinical activities.
- **Documented immunity** (natural or vaccine-induced) to **Rubella, Rubeola, and Hepatitis B**, and **current Tuberculosis screening/clearance** per program policy.
- **STCC requires documented immunity/compliance. Waivers may be considered on a case-by-case basis**, when permitted by STCC policy and clinical-site requirements. Any approved waiver must be documented in the student's file and may affect clinical placement.