

Functional Ability (Essential Function) Categories  
and  
Representative Activities/Attributes  
for the  
Surgical Technologist/Technology Programs

**\*See important information under environmental statement if you suspect you have a latex allergy or sensitivity.**

A change in your ability to perform any of the Essential Functions must be reported to Laurie Raddatz, Associate Dean, Health and Public Safety, (608) 785-9409 or to your instructor immediately.

Gross Motor Skills:

Move within confined spaces  
Maintain balance in multiple positions  
Reach above shoulders (e.g., adjust overhead lights)  
Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlet)  
Reach out front

Fine Motor Skills:

Pick up objects with hands  
Grasp small objects with hands firm and slight (ex. surgical Instruments, sutures)  
Write with pen or pencil  
Key/type (e.g., use a computer)  
Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a Syringe)  
Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands)  
Squeeze with finger (e.g., eye dropper)  
Manual dexterity  
Finger dexterity  
Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers  
Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand foot (e.g., pumping soap dispenser and surgical scrub)

Physical Endurance:

Stand for long periods of time from 2-4 hours.  
Maintain same position for long periods of time  
Sustained repetitive movements  
Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours

Physical Strength:

Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., carry instrument pans, position client, move equipment)  
Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., hold arm or leg)  
Lift 50 pounds (e.g., pick up a child, transfer client, bend to lift an infant or child)  
Carry equipment/supplies (e.g., lift instrument pans)  
Use upper body strength (e.g., retraction, physically restrain a client)  
Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguishers)

Mobility:

Ability to:  
Stand  
Walk  
Twist, turn  
Bend, stoop, squat

Sit  
Climb stairs  
Move quickly

Hearing: Ability to hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g. person to person conversation, request for an instrument).  
Hear faint voices and body sounds (e.g., heartbeat)  
Ability to discriminate speech in presence of background noises.  
Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., masks are worn in the operating room)

Visual: See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on monitor screen, identification of small needles)  
See objects up to 20 feet away  
Use depth perception  
Use peripheral vision  
Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies)  
See in darkened room (e.g., during endoscopic procedures, eye surgery)

Tactile: Feel vibrations (e.g., palpate pulses)  
Detect temperature (e.g., solutions)  
Feel differences in surface characteristics  
Feel differences in sizes, shapes  
Detect environment temperature

Environment: Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, chemical \ substances)

**NOTE: You may be unable to attend labs and clinical rotations if you are latex sensitive or have a latex allergy. We do not provide a latex free environment at school or in our clinical hospital sites at this time. You will be required to provide a doctor's written statement confirming it is safe to continue in the program if you are latex sensitive or have a latex allergy.**

Tolerate strong soaps  
Tolerate strong odors  
Exposure and tolerate unpleasant sights and sounds, electrical energy, solvents, grease, oils, slippery or uneven walking surfaces and excessive noises  
Tolerate working in confined spaces for extended periods of time  
Tolerate wearing protective equipment (e.g., mask, gown, gloves, glasses, laser, radiation)  
Tolerate working indoors  
Tolerate working in extreme temperatures

Reading: Read and understand written documents  
Read digital displays

Math: Ability to count, add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers.  
Compute fractions and decimals.  
Document numbers in records.  
Tell and measure time.  
Read measurement marks (e.g., rulers, scale)

Emotional Stability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish professional relationships</li> <li>Adapt to changing environment/stress</li> <li>Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)</li> <li>Focus attention on task</li> <li>Cope with own emotions</li> <li>Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently</li> <li>Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief, anger, stress)</li> <li>Accept constructive feedback</li> <li>Accept responsibility for own actions</li> </ul>
Analytical Thinking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer knowledge from one situation to another</li> <li>Process and interpret information from multiple sources (written or oral)</li> <li>Analyze and interpret abstract and concrete data</li> <li>Evaluate outcomes</li> <li>Problem solve</li> <li>Prioritize tasks (e.g., time management)</li> <li>Use long-term memory</li> <li>Use short-term memory</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify cause-effect relationships</li> <li>Plan/control activities (organizational skills)</li> <li>Sequence information</li> <li>Make decisions independently</li> <li>Adapt decisions based on new information</li> <li>Comprehend and follow instructions</li> <li>Follow a process from start to finish (e.g., 2 or more step instruction)</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport with individuals (e.g., surgeons, staff members) and groups</li> <li>Respect/value diversity in others</li> <li>Negotiate interpersonal conflict</li> <li>Demonstrate tolerance in working with others</li> <li>Function as part of a team</li> </ul>
Communication Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak English</li> <li>Write English</li> <li>Listen/comprehend spoken/written word</li> <li>Collaborate with others (e.g., health care workers, peers)</li> <li>Comprehend and exhibit non-verbal communication</li> </ul>