Western Technical College
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Surgical Technology Program
Western Technical College
Supplemental Information

National Certification Examination Results
Western Surgical Technology students must take the National Certification Examination as part of the graduation requirements for the program. This exam is given at the end of the Associate Degree Program and is administered at Western in cooperation with PSI Test Center Network. The exam is written by the National Board for Certification for Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants (NBSTSA).

Year	Western 1st Time Candidates	Number Passing	Western 1st Time Candidates Pass Rate
2026	11	11	100%
2025	12	11	92%
2024	15	13	86%
2023	10	8	80%
2022	12	11	92%

- **The General Anatomy & Physiology course is a pre-requisite for admission into the Surgical Technology program. Students who have completed General Anatomy and Advanced Anatomy have priority admission to the program.** The curriculum for the Surgical Technology (ST) program consists of 62 credits (including Gen Anatomy 4 cr) over 5 terms beginning in May (summer term) and ending in April. The curriculum consists of Surgical Technology courses, occupational supportive and general education courses. During the first summer term students take the General Studies courses English Composition 1, Oral Interpersonal Communication and Medical Terminology. Core courses include lecture, hands-on lab and hospital-based clinical experience. The core courses are face-to-face and only offered during the day. Upon graduation, you will have an associate degree in Surgical Technology.

- **Reliable Transportation.** You will need reliable transportation to complete the requirements of Community Practice and Fieldwork courses as distant travel may be required for all or part of your assignments. Students are responsible for their own expenses for transportation and housing related to that clinical site assignment.

- **Job Shadow.** To gain a better understanding of what a Surgical Technologist does in the workplace, you will be expected to participate in a Job Shadow experience at a local hospital in March or April prior to beginning the program. This will be set-up for you by program faculty after your acceptance into the program.

- **Clinical.** Clinical begins in fall term of the first year of ST core courses with approximately 6 hours/week spent in the hospital. Clinical schedules vary depending on the section in which you are registered. During second year, you'll spend about 18 hours/week through fall term and the first half of spring; then finish out your training with 24 hours/week for the last half of spring term.
    - Western's Surgical Technology program provides the clinical assignments necessary to achieve your program competencies. Each graduate of an accredited ST program is required to achieve 120 total scrubbed cases, including general surgery and various specialties. You will also rotate through the Central Service Department, Preoperative, Postoperative, and GI departments, as well as Labor and Delivery.
    - You will be required to be up-to-date on your immunizations, CPR, and other requirements you need before beginning your clinical assignments. If Covid vaccines are required by a clinical partner, you will be notified. You will receive information regarding this at your program orientation session.

- **National Certification Exam.** All students are required to take the national certification exam at completion of the program. The exam fee (approximately $250) will be added to your Surgical Interventions II course fees during the spring term of your second year.

- **Expenses in Addition to Textbooks.** The hospitals will provide scrubs for you to wear during clinical. You'll want to have a good pair of shoes since you'll be standing and walking a lot. Since infection control is a critical concern, those shoes need to be clean and worn only for clinical assignments. You will also be required to purchase the background check and health portal packages from Viewpoint Screening. In addition, there is the certification exam fee which is described above.

- **Body Art and Piercings.**
    - The Surgical Technology program does not allow any visible jewelry or piercings to be worn; all must be removed for clinical rotations. You will be asked to cover any body art with clothing or dressings and remove the piercings in order to complete your rotation. This policy will be enforced. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on this policy.

- **Program Faculty.** If you have specific questions about the program or your particular situation, please contact the ST program faculty directly.

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