

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY - AAS DEGREE

## Overview

### Limited Entry Program

See Department website and program contacts here (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/surgical-technology/index/>)

The **Surgical Technology (AAS) degree** is designed for students seeking careers as surgical technologists in hospitals, surgical centers, and other healthcare environments. The curriculum combines classroom instruction, laboratory learning, and clinical experience to prepare students to assist surgical teams before, during, and after surgical procedures.

Coursework includes topics such as **sterile technique, surgical procedures, patient preparation, instrumentation, anatomy and physiology, and operating room procedures**. Students develop practical technical skills used to maintain sterile surgical environments, prepare equipment and patients, assist during procedures, and support surgical teams throughout the surgical process.

The Surgical Technology program is workforce-focused and prepares students for national certification and employment in surgical settings. Students in the program complete preparation for the national certification examination administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), which is required for employment in Oregon.

The Surgical Technology program at MHCC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) (<https://www.caahep.org/>) upon recommendation of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

Because this is a limited entry program, students should review application requirements carefully and work with program advisors regarding eligibility, prerequisite completion, and program planning.

Students are encouraged to work with an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to ensure appropriate course selection and program planning based on their educational background and career goals.

### Refer to the tabs above for additional information about:

- **Education Plan** – provides a sample term-by-term sequence of courses
- **How to Apply** – details the steps required to apply to the program
- **Career Info** – includes information on potential occupations, employment trends, and earnings

## Program Learning Objectives

At the completion of this program, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate acceptable knowledge-based competencies in accord with national standards for surgical technology
- Demonstrate technical (psychomotor) competency in the scrub role in accord with national standards for surgical technology
- Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with national standards and employer expectations

- Demonstrate compassion for the patient and maintain his or her confidentiality
- Demonstrate safe health care practices consistent with employer expectations
- Exhibit a strong sense of ethical behavior and surgical conscience
- Exhibit self-direction and responsibility for actions
- Become employed in an entry-level surgical technology position

## Education Plan

This sample Education Plan illustrates one possible course sequence. Students should consult an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to create a personalized plan.

## Prerequisite Courses

For the most updated information and a list of prerequisite courses, please see the Surgical Technology - How to Get Started (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/surgical-technology/get-started/>) page. It is the student's responsibility to verify completion of appropriate prerequisite courses.

**These courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher before the application deadline:**

Code	Title	Credits
BI231Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BI234	Microbiology (taken within the past ten years)	4
MTH058	Quantitative Reasoning I <sup>1</sup>	4-6
or MTH065	Beginning Algebra II	
WR115	Introduction to College Writing <sup>2</sup>	4
or WR121Z	Composition I	
Placement into WR121Z is acceptable if placed within the past 5 years		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16-18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Fulfills the AAS degree Mathematics requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Fulfills the AAS degree Written Communication requirement.

## Education Plan

### Prerequisites

WR115	Introduction to College Writing (or placement into WR121Z)	4
or WR121Z	or Composition I	
MTH065	Beginning Algebra II (or higher)	4
or MTH058	or Quantitative Reasoning I	
BI231Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BI234	Microbiology	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>8</b>

### First Quarter

Fall		Credits
ST101	Surgical Technology Theory I	4
BI232Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
MO111	Medical Terminology	4
WR121Z	Composition I (if not already completed)	0-4

Health and Physical Education requirement ( <a href="https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#AAS-HPE">https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#AAS-HPE</a> )	3
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**Credits** **15**

**Second Quarter****Winter**

ST102	Surgical Technology Theory II <sup>†</sup>	4
ST103	Surgical Technology Theory III <sup>†</sup>	4
ST111	Surgical Technology Lab I <sup>†</sup>	2
BI233Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology III	4
WR122Z	Composition II	4
or COMM111Z	or Public Speaking	
or COMM115	or Introduction to Intercultural Communication 🌐	

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**Credits** **18**

**Third Quarter****Spring**

ST104	Surgical Technology IV <sup>†</sup>	4
ST112	Surgical Technology Lab II <sup>†</sup>	2
Human Relations requirement ( <a href="https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#AAS-HR">https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#AAS-HR</a> )		3
<b>Computer skills requirement—select one of the following:</b>		4
CIS120 & 120L	Computer Concepts I and Computer Concepts Lab I	
BA131	Introduction to Business Computing	

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**Credits** **13**

**Fourth Quarter****Summer**

ST155	Surgical Technology Lab for Clinical Readiness <sup>†</sup>	0
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**Credits** **0**

**Fifth Quarter****Fall**

ST204	Surgical Technology - General and Pediatric Surgery <sup>†</sup>	4
ST205	Surgical Technology - Obstetric, Gynecologic and Genitourinary Surgery <sup>†</sup>	4
ST221	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum <sup>†</sup>	6

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**Credits** **14**

**Sixth Quarter****Winter**

ST206	Surgical Technology - Orthopedic Surgery <sup>†</sup>	4
ST207	Surgical Technology - Otorhinolaryngologic, Oromaxillofacial, Plastic and Burn Surgery <sup>†</sup>	4
ST222	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum <sup>†</sup>	6

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**Credits** **14**

**Seventh Quarter****Spring**

ST208	Surgical Technology - Ophthalmologic and Neurosurgery <sup>†</sup>	4
ST209	Surgical Technology - Thoracic, Cardiovascular and Vascular Surgery <sup>†</sup>	4

ST223	Surgical Tech Clinical Practicum <sup>†</sup>	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>96</b>

<sup>†</sup> Course with "ST" prefix are offered only in the terms listed. Other courses may be taken during any term.

**Awarding Requirements**

The following requirement(s) must be fulfilled to be awarded the AAS in Surgical Technology degree:

- All core program courses (ST, BI, MO, CIS or BA) must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher.
- All Surgical Technology courses (ST) must be completed within five (5) years of starting the program.

**How to Apply**

The **Surgical Technology** program is a limited-entry program. The program admits approximately 20–24 students each fall term. Because space is limited, students must meet specific eligibility requirements before applying.

**View current admissions requirements, deadlines, and application information**

**Application Steps****Step 1: Apply to MHCC**

Students should apply for admission to Mt. Hood Community College and work with an advisor regarding prerequisite coursework and program planning.

**Step 2: Complete Academic Prerequisite Courses**

Students must complete all required prerequisite coursework prior to applying to the program. Prerequisite requirements may change between application cycles.

**Step 3: Complete the Written Exercise**

Applicants must complete a written exercise demonstrating knowledge of the surgical technology profession. Current writing prompts include creation of a surgical technologist job posting, a self-reflection component, and citation of surgical technology resources. Writing prompt requirements may change between admission cycles.

**Step 4: Submit the Program Application**

Students must submit all required application materials during the published application period.

**Additional Information**

Admission to Mt. Hood Community College does not guarantee admission to the Surgical Technology program. MHCC reserves the right to modify admission requirements and selection processes.

Mt. Hood Community College welcomes students of all backgrounds and identities. All students are encouraged to apply.

**Career Information**

Explore potential careers related to this program, including typical job roles, employment trends, and projected growth. This information can help you better understand how your education may align with future career opportunities.