

PROGRAM REVIEW

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors

Program with Special Accreditation

Program without Specialized Accreditation

Program: A.A.S. Surgical Technology January 2014
Degree and Title Date

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATION

The institution is obligated to recommend continuance or discontinuance for each program reviewed and provide a brief rationale for its recommendation.

- X 1. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity without corrective action;
- 2. Continuation of program with corrective action (specify required action - e.g., reducing the range of optional tracks or other corrective action);
- 3. Identification of the program for further development;
- 4. Development of a cooperative program with another institution or sharing of courses, facilities, and/or faculty, and the like;
- 5. Discontinuance of the program in accordance with provisions of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Title 135, Procedural Rule, Series 11, *Degree Designation, General Education Requirements, New Program Approval, and Discontinuance of Existing Programs.*

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Associate in Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology meets or exceeds all the standards for a viable program as set forth by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. There are sufficient numbers of graduates and the need is evident based on the number of students employed prior to or right after graduation.

Judith Curry
 Signature of person preparing report if other than Department Chair

3/10/14
 Date

Alyce Patterson - Dean / PLL
 Signature of Department Chair

3-10-14
 Date

Dr. Pamela L Alderman
 Signature of Dean

3-10-14
 Date

Debi Tucker
 Signature of Vice President for Academic Affairs

3-12-14
 Date

Jannepegan Tomblin
 Signature of President

4/22/14
 Date

Thomas A. Hewood
 Signature of Chair, Board of Governors

4/22/14
 Date

**Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Division of Career and Technical Programs – Department of Allied Health
Surgical Technology, Associate in Applied Science Degree**

Program Review Summary

Program Review Components

A. Adequacy

- The Curriculum requirement adequately meets the required Association of Surgical Technologist core curriculum.
- The program is adequately staffed with qualified faculty.
- The entrance requirements for students are those mandated by the college.
- Placement of graduates has been exceptional.
- Many of the graduates have pursued the next educational level.
- Advisory committee is actively involved in the program.
- The assessment system ensures that the student has attained the proper learning and competency abilities.

Conclusion: The program meets and exceeds the minimum adequacy requirements.

B. Viability

- The number of students graduating from the program is acceptable and is expected to increase with the changes made to orientation and entrance requirements.
- The program maintains clinical contracts with facilities in Logan, Charleston and Williamson West Virginia.

Conclusion: The program meets minimum requirements for viability as a major.

C. Necessity

- The program meets both an educational and employment need.

Conclusion: The program is a necessary program.

D. Consistency with Mission

- The program supports the mission and vision of the institution.
- The program and/or core courses support Southern's Compact.

Conclusion: The program is consistent with the Mission of the college.

Recommendation

Continuation of the program at current level of activity without corrective action.

I. Program Title, Degree Designation, and Brief Description

The Surgical Technology Program, a two-year Associate Degree Program designed to train highly skilled surgical technologists, was implemented in the fall of 1997. In the beginning students were admitted in the fall every other year. The two-year program was completed before another class was admitted.

In the fall of 2008, the Surgical Technology Program began to admit a class each year due to the requests of the clinical facilities. The facilities stated they had vacancies each year, and without a graduating class every year, they were unable to fill empty positions in the operating room. The program continues to admit each year to meet the needs of the facilities.

The surgical technologist functions as an integral part of the surgical team under the direct supervision of a licensed Registered Professional Nurse and in cooperation with the surgeon, anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist. Duties and responsibilities include preparing the sterile field, equipment, supplies, and instrumentation during surgical procedures, as well as being able to operate complex machinery such as sterilizers, electrosurgical units, and diagnostic equipment used in surgery. The surgical technologist assists medical and nursing personnel in operating rooms, emergency rooms, obstetrical units and outpatient facilities.

The Surgical Technology Program limits enrollment to twenty students due to availability of clinical space for hands-on practice at the clinical facilities. Although the program has never admitted twenty students, enrollment increases each year as the public is more aware of the functions and needs of surgical technologist in the operating room.

Graduates of the Surgical Technology Program are eligible to take the *Surgical Technologist National Certifying Examination*. The certification exam is not required to practice as a surgical technologist. However some health care facilities increase the pay for a certified Surgical Technologist.

The Surgical Technology Program Goals

1. The program curriculum will meet or exceed the content demands of the latest *Core Curriculum* of the Surgical Technologist.
2. Faculty will meet or exceed qualifications described by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program in Surgical Technology.

3. Prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning Domains.
4. Provide students with job service information such as, but not limited to: resume writing, interview skills, and prospective job information.
5. Maintain adequate support services to meet demands of the curriculum.
6. Provide timely information to students relative to achievement of course and or program objectives.
7. Admit students to the program according to published admission criteria and according to community need.
8. Maximize the quality of the Surgical Technology Program by ongoing monitoring and evaluating of program, faculty, facilities, and outcomes.
9. Maintain communication with the community health care agencies through an advisory committee.
10. Provide the opportunity for students to experience a variety of surgical procedures.

Student/Graduate Outcomes (Standards set by Accreditation Agency)

1. 70% of the students entering the program will graduate.
2. 100% of the students that graduate will take the CST exam.
3. 70% of the students taking the CST exam will pass.
4. 80% of the students that graduate will be employed within one (1) year.
5. 85% satisfaction rate by the employer of the new graduate.
6. 85% satisfaction rate by the graduate of the program.

II. Special Accreditation Information

The Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP). An annual report of the program is required by CAAHEP. An accreditation on-site visit was held on November 12, 2013. The summary from the visit was submitted to the college, in letter format, December 10, 2013. The letter identified the strengths and concerns of the program.

The concerns identified four standards, three of those standards were related to the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The problems were: one member had never attended a meeting; the physician needed to sign off on the minutes; and the committee needed to take a more active role in annually assessing the program. The other standard related to the number of students that was admitted each fall and retention of students. The past cohort consisted of 20 students, maximum capacity, but this had to be reduced to 14 students per fall admission due to the Kentucky limitation of out of state students at clinicals in their facilities.

Each concern was addressed and the response letter was forwarded February 5, 2014. The accreditation agency will meet to review the response. We will not know the outcome until Fall 2014.

III. Program Statement on Adequacy, Viability, Necessity, and Consistency with College Mission

A. Adequacy

1. Curriculum:

The curriculum standards are set by the *Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology* that supports three main content areas: Science, Fundamentals and Practice. The Science component includes basic science, related science and biomedical science. The Fundamentals section focus is on elements, integration and application. The Practice section covers professional issues, such as professional management, workplace management and self-management.

A copy of the curriculum is reflected in Appendix I.

2. Faculty:

Effective August 2013 the new requirement required by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program requires the Program Director to be a certified surgical technologist, certified nurse-operating room, and have five years of experience in the scrub role in the operating room, or five years as an instructor of surgical technology, or combination of both. They must also hold at least an Associate's Degree.

Any Program Director hired before the new effective date will be "grandfathered" under previous Standards.

The Coordinator of the program is a full time surgical technology Instructor, devoting all of her work to the program. The Coordinator has the following qualifications:

1. Licensed RN in West Virginia;
2. Bachelor's degree in nursing;
3. Four years experience as an operating room supervisor;
4. Fourteen and one half years experience as instructor/coordinator of the program;
5. Member of Association of Surgical Technologist;
6. CPR Certified; and
7. Ongoing continuing education for professional development

CAAHEP requires the Clinical Coordinator to be a certified surgical Technologist; have three years clinical experience; and hold at least an Associate's Degree.

The current clinical instructor was hired full time in the fall of 2008. Qualifications are:

1. Associate degree in surgical technology;
2. Seven years experience in the operating room as a surgical technologist;
3. A certified surgical technologist;
4. Four years experience as adjunct faculty clinical instructor for the Program;
5. Member of the Association of Surgical Technologist;
6. CPR certified; and
7. Ongoing continuing education for professional development

CAAHEP requires the adjunct that provides instruction in the clinical facility to be a certified surgical technologist and at least two years of clinical experience.

The current adjunct was hired in the fall of 2010. Qualifications are:

1. Associate degree in surgical technology;
2. 13 years experience in the operating room as a surgical technologist;
3. A certified surgical technologist;
4. Member of The Association of Surgical Technologist;
5. CPR certified; and
6. Ongoing continuing education for professional development

Qualified college faculty teach support courses such as English, anatomy and physiology, math, and psychology. Support faculty meet or exceed the qualifications of the college's accrediting body, Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges.

The faculty data forms are reflected in Appendix II

3. Students

A. Entrance Abilities:

Students applying for admission must meet the requirements for allied health associate degree programs as well as college general admission requirements. Admission is limited due to accreditation and approval requirements, instructor/student ratio, and availability of clinical learning facilities. The student must complete a background check and drug screen. In addition, the student must successfully complete a physical exam stating the student is physically able to function in the clinical setting. The student must also complete a set of immunizations.

B. Exit Competencies:

Graduates of this program have knowledge of patient care concepts. The graduate is responsible to perform in the role of the sterile and nonsterile personnel. They have acquired the necessary skills and knowledge needed to perform basic, intermediate and advanced procedures in the operating room. The graduate is able to operate surgical equipment, identify and handle instruments, supplies, suture, and to anticipate the needs of the surgeon.

Effective 2011 students were required to take the Certification Exam upon completion of the program. The exam is published by the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist (LCC-ST). The exam is web based consisting of 200 multiple choice questions. The exam is given on campus by an employee with no relation to the program.

The student may also take the "Self Assessment Exam" (SAE) published by the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist (LCC-ST). The SAE can be a useful study tool. It can help to identify specific areas needing additional practice or review. The SAE is also a web based exam.

4. Resources

A. Financial

The Surgical Technology Program receives a budget from the college finance department. It is sufficient to purchase supplies, some learning tools and cover the travel of faculty.

The program receives donations from clinical facilities. These donations include outdated supplies and old equipment as a facility replaces and updates their equipment. These types of donations also help with the budget.

B. Facilities

The Surgical Technology Program utilizes a number of facilities to obtain clinical experience. The clinical facilities have been very supportive, donating expired supplies for the students use and providing a mentor at each facility for the students to report to for assignments. Logan Regional Medical Center is the only facility which requires a faculty member to be with students. The facilities include:

1. Logan Regional Medical Center
2. Thomas Memorial Hospital
3. Saint Francis Hospital
4. Williamson Memorial Hospital

In prior years the program had utilized two facilities in Kentucky. However, due to the Kentucky guidelines we can no longer send students to:

1. Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital
2. Pikeville Medical Center

The laboratory and classrooms on the Logan campus are more than adequate for the program. Each year the laboratory is updated with more instruments and equipment.

Library texts are available along with several videos that focus on different components of the surgical technology field. The association's journal is available for students and an online resource for journal literature is available to students and faculty.

5. Assessment Information

A. Assessment Data

Students enrolling in the college are given entrance assessment exams to assist in placing students in appropriate English and math courses. All students are expected to participate in institutional, program and course assessment activities. Most of the assessment data is in the form of tests to determine student academic achievement, and students are also tested in the skills of the field of surgical technology by demonstration. Assessment is ongoing and the student is provided feedback on performance as needed.

The Surgical Technologist Certifying Exam (CST) is the national certifying exam for surgical technologists. The student must be a graduate of a surgical technology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and present evidence of proof of

Graduation in order to take the exam. The CST is not required to work in the operating room and many students in the past did not take the exam. However, in 2011, the accreditation agency required all students to take the exam upon graduation. Some facilities have a higher pay scale for the surgical technologist who is certified.

B. Assessment Tools and Data for Last Five Years

Second year surgical technology students participate in the overall college assessment program. Program assessment tools include; written exam, demonstration of clinical skills, use of operating room equipment, identification of instrument, written reports, clinical evaluations, and the CST exam.

C. Graduate and Employer Satisfaction

Students and employers are requested to complete satisfaction surveys. Graduates in the past five years reported their educational needs were met and had no recommended changes for the program. A summary of the strengths of the program reported by students are as follows:

1. Instructor expertise;
2. Program objectives were met;
3. Available instruments and supplies were adequate; and
4. Clinical facilities provided good hands on experience

Employers completed surveys praising the knowledge of the students. A summary of the strengths of the program reported by employers are as follows.

1. Graduates very knowledgeable of instruments, supplies and Equipment;
2. Skilled in asepsis and sterile technique;
3. Ability to perform tasks in all phases of surgery;
4. Graduates prepared for entry level position;
5. Graduates orientation period was shortened due to skills; and
6. Would hire other graduates from this program

Students who graduated from the program are very pleased with their preparedness for employment. Employers praise the graduates in advisory Meetings and whenever the instructor visits the facilities.

Results may be found in Appendix III

6. Previous Program Review

The Surgical Technology Program was approved during the last review in 2009 with no further recommendations for the program.

7. Advisory Committee

The accreditation agency required the advisory committee to meet at least annually. The committee is comprised of a student from each of the first and second year class, a certified graduate currently working, at least one employer of graduates, a member of the public, a physician, faculty and a college administrator. These are the members the accreditation agency requires, other miscellaneous persons may belong to the committee. The committee size is not limited.

The advisory committee actively participates in making recommendations and providing an excellent clinical rotation for the students. However, the accreditation site reviewers wanted to see the advisory committee more involved.

8. Strengths/Weaknesses

The Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) requires graduate and employer surveys to be completed within one year after graduation. The surveys assess the graduate skills and the program strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths

1. Dedicated coordinator and clinical instructor
2. Licensed/certified and qualified staff
3. Cooperation of clinical facilities
4. Equipment/supplies for demonstration in laboratory setting
5. Students are employed after graduation
6. The program is accredited
7. Annual reports to the accreditation agency were approved with no further recommendations
8. All the weaknesses in the last program review have been met:
 - a. An operating room light was purchased
 - b. The scrub sink was replaced, two students may scrub at one time
 - c. Video materials updated and a smart desk installed in the lab

Weaknesses

1. The accreditation agency requires a minimum number to attend the advisory meeting which we do not yet meet.

Plan to Improve: Select some new members who will be more dedicated to serve.

2. Due to the decrease in number of clinical sites because of the Kentucky law, the acceptance of the number of students must be decreased from 20 to 14.

Plan to Improve: Request other West Virginia facilities to accept Students for clinical hours.

B. Viability

1. Program enrollment for the previous 5 years

Class of 2008-2010 – 13 Students
Class of 2009-2011 – 14 Students
Class of 2010-2012 – 15 Students
Class of 2011-2013 – 14 Students
Class of 2012-2014 – 12 Students

The program enrollment has maintained over the previous years.

2. Number of graduates for previous 5 years

Class of 2008-2010 – 7/13 = 54%
Class of 2009-2011 – 7/14 = 50%
Class of 2010-2012 – 8/15 = 53%
Class of 2011-2013 – 7/14 = 50%
Class of 2012-2014 – 6/12 = 50% Currently enrolled

The graduation rate falls below the standard of 70% set by the accreditation agency.

3. Enrollment Projections

Enrollment is expected to maintain at the 14 students per cohort. The current clinical facilities provide enough spaces for student rotation for clinical experience. The program will admit students annually as long as there is a demand for surgical technologists.

4. Off-Campus/Distance Delivery Classes

The program offers no off-campus or distance delivery classes.

5. Articulation Agreements

The surgical technology student graduates from the program with an associate in applied science degree and may transfer to other colleges and universities for continuing education. At this time no articulation agreements

exist specifically for surgical technology.

C. Necessity

The graduate from the program can easily find employment if they wish to work. Many of the local facilities interview and offer positions to the graduates before they graduate. Local newspapers and the surgical technologist magazine often advertise positions. Information concerning vacancy notices are mailed to the school from out of state and recruiters have visited the school to discuss employment. Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer of surgical technologists. However, growth is expected in offices of physicians and in outpatient care centers in the future.

1. Graduates

a. Placement Rates

Class of 2008-2010 – 7/7 Students = 100%

Class of 2009-2011 – 6/7 Students = 86%

Class of 2010-2012 – 6/8 Students = 75%

Class of 2011-2013 – 6/7 Students = 86%

Class of 2012-2014 – No data at this time

Although some graduates did not choose to move into the workforce, vacancies were available in different facilities when they graduated.

b. Salary Range

Surgical technology graduates have informally reported a salary range of \$12- \$16 per hour in the local area. Pay increased with certification.

D. Consistency with Mission

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College provides accessible, affordable, quality education and training that promotes success for those we serve.

Goals of the college are compared to the Surgical Technology program outcomes:

College Goal: Programs of study leading to the associate in arts and the associate in science degrees which can be effectively transferred and applied toward the baccalaureate degree.

Program Goal: Approximately 25 credit hours in support courses may be transferred toward a baccalaureate degree.

College Goal: Programs of study in career and technical fields leading to a skill-set certification, certificate degree and/or the associate in applied science degree for entry into the workforce.

Program Goal: Prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. Students will obtain associate in applied science degree.

College Goal: Support services that assist students in achieving their education and training goals.

Program Goal: Provide affiliation agreements with clinical facilities for hand on skills.

Appendices

Appendix I

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Degree Program: Surgical Technology

Curriculum

Dept/No	Title	Credit Hours
	General Education	
MT 121/Higher	College Math	3
EN 101	English Composition I	3
PY 201	General Psychology	3
EN 102	English Composition II	3
PY218	Life-Span Developmental Psychology	3
	Major	
SG 100	Introductory Surgical Technology	3
SG 101	Surgical Technology Skills	3
SG 105	Surgical Technology Biomedical	2
SG 120	Surgical Technology I	7
SG 210	Anesthetics, Drugs and Solutions	2
SG 220	Surgical Technology II	7
SG 230	Surgical Technology III	11
	Related Fields Courses Required	
BS 118	Essentials of Health Systems for Allied Health	4
BS 127	Microbiology for Allied Health	3
	Additional Credits Required in Major	
AH 108	Medical Terminology	2
AH 200	Health Care Ethics and Law	1
	Total Credit Hours	60

APPENDIX II – Faculty Data

(No more than **TWO** pages per faculty member)

Name Judith Curry Rank Assistant Professor
 Check one: Full-time X Part-time _____ Adjunct _____
 Highest Degree Earned BSN
 Date Degree Received May 1990
 Conferred by West Virginia University
 Area of Specialization Bachelor of Science – Nursing

Professional registration/licensure West Virginia Registered Nurse License
 Years of employment at present institution 14
 Years of employment in higher education 14
 Years of related experience outside higher education 33
 Non-teaching experience 33

To determine compatibility of credentials with assignment:

- (a) List courses you taught this year and those you taught last year: (If you participated in team-taught course, indicate each of them and what percent of courses you taught). For each course include year and semester taught, course number, course title and enrollment.

<u>Year/Semester</u>	<u>Course Number & Title</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
2014/Spring	SG 120 Surgical Technology I *	13
	SG 230 Surgical Technology III *	6
2013/Fall	SG 100 Intro to Surgical Technology	14
	SG 101 Surgical Technology Skills *	14
	SG 105 Surgical Technology Biomedical	14
	SG 210 Anesthetics, Drugs & Solutions	6
	SG 220 Surgical Technology II	6
2013/Spring	SG 120 Surgical Technology I *	6
	SG 230 Surgical Technology III *	7
2012/Fall	SG 100 Intro to Surgical Technology	12
	SG 101 Surgical Technology Skills *	12
	SG 105 Surgical Technology Biomedical	12
	SG 210 Anesthetics, Drugs & Solutions	8
	SG 220 Surgical Technology II	8

* denote courses team-taught:

- * SG 120 (50%) with Meloney McRoberts (50%)
- * SG 101 (50%) with Meloney McRoberts (50%)
- * SG 230 (50%) with Adjunct (50%)

- (b). If degree is not in area of current assignment, explain. NA

- (c). Identify your professional development activities during the past five years.

CPR Certified; Member of the Association of Surgical Technologists; Member of International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management; May 2011 Attended the International Healthcare Material Management Conference; October 2013 Attended Educause Annual Conference; Obtained 74 Continuing Education Contact Hours in, Adverse Events CPR, Hypertension, Cardiovascular Diseases, Pharmacology, Instrument Inspection, Wound Management, Ambulatory Surgical Care.

APPENDIX II – Faculty Data

(No more than **TWO** pages per faculty member)

Name Meloney McRoberts Rank Instructor

Check one: Full-time Part-time _____ Adjunct _____

Highest Degree Earned AAS
 Date Degree Received May 2001
 Conferred by Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
 Area of Specialization Surgical Technology

Professional registration/licensure National Certification as a Surgical Technologist
 Years of employment at present institution 9 (5 Full Time, 4 Adjunct)
 Years of employment in higher education 9
 Years of related experience outside higher education 3
 Non-teaching experience 3

To determine compatibility of credentials with assignment:

- (a) List courses you taught this year and those you taught last year: (If you participated in team-taught course, indicate each of them and what percent of courses you taught). For each course include year and semester taught, course number, course title and enrollment.

<u>Year/Semester</u>	<u>Course Number & Title</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
2014/Spring	SG 120 Surgical Technology I *	13
2013/Fall	SG 101 Surgical Technology Skills * AH 135 Surgical Instrumentation	14 10
2013/Spring	SG 120 Surgical Technology I *	6
2012/Fall	SG 101 Surgical Technology Skills * AH 135 Surgical Instrumentation	12 6

* denote courses team-taught with Judith Curry

- (b). If degree is not in area of current assignment, explain. NA

- (c). Identify your professional development activities during the past five years.

CPR Certified; Member of the Association of Surgical Technologists; Member of International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management; May 2011 Attended the International Healthcare Material Management Conference; Obtained 22 Continuing Education Contact Hours in Instrumentation, Surgery Areas, and Infection Control.

Appendix III

ATTRITION RATE

CLASS	# STUDENTS ENROLLED	# STUDENT GRADUATES	ATTRITION %
2008-10	13	7	54%
2009-11	14	7	50%
2010-12	15	8	53%
2011-13	14	7	50%
2012-14	12	6 On tract	50%

The table above provides a visual overview of the Surgical Technology Program attrition rate for the last five graduating classes. The accreditation agency standard is 70%. The program does not meet the standard.

EMPLOYMENT RATE

CLASS	# STUDENT GRADUATES	#EMPLOYED	EMPLOYMENT %
2008-10	7	7	100%
2009-11	7	6	86%
2010-11	8	6	75%
2011-13	7	6	86%
2012-14			No Data

The table above provides a visual overview of the graduates employed with one year after graduation. The accreditation agency standard is 80%. The program fell below the standard one year. However, the four students not hired did not seek employment. Vacancies were available, and students were notified. All students seeking employment were hired.

CERTIFICATION EXAM PASSAGE RATE

CLASS	# GRADUATES	# TOOK EXAM	% TESTED	# PASSED	% PASSED
2008-10	7	7	100%	6	86%
2009-11	7	7	100%	6	86%
2010-12	8	8	100%	6	75%
2011-13	7	7	100%	7	100%
2012-14					No Data

The table above provides a visual overview of the graduates that took the exam and passed. The accreditation standard is 100% to take the exam and 70% of the students will pass the exam. The program meets both standards.