

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY: AAS

Associate in Applied Science | 63 credit hours minimum

Area of Interest: Health Professions

Program Website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/pathways/health-professions/surgical-technology/>)

Academic Advising (<https://stlcc.edu/admissions/advising/>)

Program Description:

The Surgical Technology Associate in Applied Science program prepares students for entry level positions as surgical technologists through classroom instruction, laboratory skill practice, and clinical experience.

Students will gain theoretical knowledge of the surgical environment and develop skills necessary to prepare supplies and equipment, to maintain aseptic conditions, and to assist surgeons and the surgical team by passing instrumentation during operations.

Persons interested in this program should possess a stable temperament, manual dexterity, physical stamina, and the ability to integrate and prioritize a variety of activities.

Students are required to complete a health history, immunization record, physical exam and a drug and criminal background check prior to attending hospital clinical education.

Employment opportunities include hospital surgical departments, outpatient surgery centers, organ procurement centers and central supply processing units.

This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Accreditation Review Council on Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC-STSA).

Graduates of this program are qualified to take the National Board Exam offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) to become a certified surgical technologist (CST).

Locations. This program is offered in its entirety at Forest Park.

Cost of Attendance. For more information on cost of attendance visit **MoSCORES** (<https://scorecard.mo.gov/Search/>).

Program Career and Salary Information. Pursuant to Missouri HB 1606 (2018), information regarding the number of credit hours, program length, employment rate, wage data, and graduates employed in careers related to their program of study at St. Louis Community College can be found at the following URL: <https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/> (https://www.google.com/url?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=155536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_i2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ). Search using School / Program "St. Louis Community College" and choose the degree or credential type of interest.

The following limitations to the data apply: Information provided is based on the most recent cohorts available. Typically, most recent cohorts for wage and completion data are six years prior to the current academic year. Time to complete a program of study varies depending on the number of credit hours students earn per semester.

Interested in this program? Start the enrollment process by visiting the **Apply to STLCC** (<https://www.stlcc.edu/admissions/apply-to-stlcc/>) page.

At the completion of the program, students are expected to:

1. understand asepsis and sterile technique.
2. explain sterilization, disinfection, and antisepsis.
3. demonstrate knowledge of specialty surgical procedures.
4. understand the use of surgical pharmacology and anesthesia.
5. exhibit knowledge of equipment, supplies, and instrumentation.
6. discuss patient care concepts.
7. maintain a safe environment in the surgical technologist role.
8. demonstrate the ability to perform routine tasks in the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative areas.
9. communicate effectively in the healthcare environment.
10. recognize the value of teamwork and function as a member of a team.
11. exhibit a strong sense of ethical behavior and surgical conscience.
12. respond calmly and effectively under pressure.
13. exhibit self-direction and responsibility for actions.

Missouri Civics Examination. Students entering college for the very first time in fall 2019 and who intend to complete an associate's degree must successfully complete a civics examination. **Information on who is eligible for a waiver can be found on the STLCC website** (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/missouri-civics-exam.aspx>).

Program of Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Prerequisites:		
The following courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to applying for admission into the program.		
MTH 108	Elementary Applied Mathematics (or higher)	
BIO 111	Introductory Biology I (MOTR BIOL 100L) ¹	
Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.		
General Education		
ENG 101	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100)	3
BIO 203	General Microbiology I	4
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
XXX xxx	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/general-education/)	3
SOC 101 or PSY 200	Introduction to Sociology (MOTR SOCI 101) General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3
XXX xxx	Humanities or Communications Elective	3
Health and Wellness Requirement		
XXX xxx	Health and Wellness Elective (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/course-descriptions/courses/hw/)	2
Program Requirements		
ST 120	Principles of Surgical Technology	3
ST 122	Medical/Surgical Terminology	3
ST 124	Clinical Foundations	3
ST 126	Surgical Equipment and Technological Concepts	2
ST 128	Perioperative Case Management	3

ST 220	Procedures I	3
ST 230	Procedures II	3
ST 224	Clinical Practice I	6
ST 234	Clinical Practice II	6
ST 238	Professional Issues	2
ST 228	Clinical Seminar	1
ST 215	Surgical Pharmacology	2

Total Credit Hours **63**

¹ Math and Science courses must be completed within five calendar years of entering the program or by permission of program director.

Additional Program Information

Academic Progress Policy

- Surgical technology students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in all program-required courses. Any grade below a "C" is considered failing in the Surgical Technology program.
- Should a student receive a failing grade or withdraw from a Surgical Technology course, the following rules apply:
 - The student will be ineligible to continue in the program but may reenroll in the course the next time it is offered. They must respond to the program coordinator's dismissal letter by the stated deadline. Failure to do so will result in loss of readmission eligibility.
 - Any Surgical Technology course may be repeated only once within one year, provided the student is eligible for readmission into the program. A student will be dismissed and not eligible for readmission into the program if:
 - They fail to earn a grade of "C" or higher in any Surgical Technology course during the first semester of the program.
 - They withdraw from two or more Surgical Technology courses in a semester with failing grades.
 - They withdraw or earn a grade of "D" or "F" in any Surgical Technology course after readmission into the program.
 - They have already reentered the program and later receives a failing grade or withdraws from another course in a subsequent semester.
 - Dismissals or failing grades due to behavioral issues, unethical behavior, academic integrity issues, patient safety issues, or due to disciplinary action will not be allowed readmission to the program.
 - Students ineligible for readmission due to excessive failures must wait a minimum of five years from the most recently failed course before reapplying.

- Students seeking to reenter the program will be given an individualized plan, which may include but is not limited to updating immunization requirements and physical forms, repeating background checks and drug screens, visiting the academic support center, auditing courses, retaking the course(s) failed, and retaking corequisite courses. If these requirements are not completed by the due dates given, the student will be permanently dismissed from the program. Additionally, students reentering during the second year of the program, may be required to attend additional on-campus laboratory sessions to ensure they have maintained the skills necessary for safe patient care during their clinical education portion of the program.

- A minimum grade of "C" must be achieved for all general education college courses in the program curriculum (sciences, sociology, etc). Please note that some general education courses are prerequisites for ST courses. Students will not be able to progress in the Surgical Technology program if they are unable to enroll in required courses due to failing grades in a prerequisite general education course. Additionally, a student will not be awarded the degree in Surgical Technology until all courses are satisfactorily completed and will forfeit the option to take the CST exam if program requirements are not completed on time.

Missouri Civics Examination. Students entering college for the very first time in fall 2019 and who intend to complete an associate's degree must successfully complete a civics examination. **Information on who is eligible for a waiver can be found on the STLC website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/missouri-civics-exam.aspx>).**

PLEASE NOTE: If you originally enrolled at STLC prior to Fall 2025, you may need to view an **archived catalog (<http://catalog.stlcc.edu/archived-catalogs/>)** for your correct program requirements. Please speak with an advisor or the program coordinator for more information.

Program Prerequisites (to be completed with a grade of "C" or better within the past five years prior to applying to the program)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
MTH 108	Elementary Applied Mathematics (or higher)	3
BIO 111	Introductory Biology I (MOTR BIOL 100L)	4
Total Credit Hours		7

Full-Time Academic Plan

Code	Title	Hours	Prerequisites	Milestones/Notes
First Year				
Fall				
BIO 203	General Microbiology I	4	BIO 111 or BIO 140 with a minimum grade of "C", or college-level course equivalent, and Reading Proficiency	
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4	BIO 111 or BIO 140 or CHM 101 with a minimum grade of "C", or college-level course equivalent, and Reading Proficiency	

ST 120	Principles of Surgical Technology	3	Current enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program or permission of the program director and Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course, Gateway Course, Critical Course. Corequisite: ST 122
ST 122	Medical/Surgical Terminology	3	Current enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program or permissions of program director, and Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course, Critical Course. Corequisite: ST 120
	Credit Hours	14		
Spring				
ST 124	Clinical Foundations	3	ST 120, ST 122 with minimum grades of "C", BIO 207 with a minimum grade of "C" or permission of program director, and Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course, Critical Course. Corequisite: ST 128
ST 126	Surgical Equipment and Technological Concepts	2	Current enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program, ST 120, ST 122 and BIO 203 all with minimum grades of "C", and Reading Proficiency	
ST 128	Perioperative Case Management	3	ST 120 and ST 122, both with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 124 and ST 126
SOC 101 or PSY 200	Introduction to Sociology (MOTR SOCI 101) or General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3	Reading Proficiency or concurrent enrollment in RDG 079	May complete prior to or during the program
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BIO 207 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	May complete prior to or during the program
	Credit Hours	15		
Summer				
ST 215	Surgical Pharmacology	2	Current enrollment in the Surgical Technology Program, ST 120 with a minimum grade of "C", and Reading Proficiency	
XXX xxx	Health and Wellness Elective (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/course-descriptions/courses/hw/)	2		HW 111 is suggested.
ENG 101	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100)	3	Placement score or ENG 030 or ENG 070 with a grade of "C" or better or recommendation of department and Reading Proficiency or concurrent enrollment in RDG 079	May complete prior to or during the program
	Credit Hours	7		
Second Year				
Fall				
ST 220	Procedures I	3	ST 124, ST 126, ST 128, ST 215, BIO 208, all with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 224
ST 224	Clinical Practice I	6	Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 220 and ST 228
ST 228	Clinical Seminar	1	Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 224
XXX xxx	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/general-education/)	3		May complete prior to or during the program
	Credit Hours	13		

Spring				
ST 230	Procedures II	3	ST 220, ST 224 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 234 and ST 238
ST 234	Clinical Practice II	6	ST 228 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Corequisite: ST 230
ST 238	Professional Issues	2	ST 220 and ST 224 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
XXX xxx	Humanities or Communications Elective	3		May complete prior to or during the program
	Credit Hours	14		
	Total Credit Hours	63		

Critical Courses: Critical courses are most important to a student's declared major and most strongly predict later success in the major. A critical course requires a minimal grade to progress to higher-level courses.

Gateway Courses: Gateway courses are courses in many career pathways that must be completed before progression in higher-level courses. These may be the same as critical and/or exploratory courses.

Exploratory Courses: Exploratory courses are first-semester courses that introduce the program and career field.

*Click on the hyperlinked course number to view additional information about the course.

**Students completing a course that has been assigned a MOTR number may transfer that course to any public institution in Missouri. Those who complete CORE 42 requirements will have that verification on their transcript.

*** It is your responsibility to verify that the courses listed above will transfer to the four-year institution of your choice. Maximize your transfer credits/classes by meeting with an academic advisor.