Surgical Technologist

What They Do
Assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. May help set up operating room, prepare and transport patients for surgery, adjust lights and equipment, pass instruments and other supplies to surgeons and surgeon's assistants, hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

Is This For You?
Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

- **Realistic** – involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions.
- **Social** – involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people.
- **Conventional** – involves following set procedures and routines.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

- **Support** – offer supportive management that stands behind employees.
- **Relationships** – allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.
- **Achievement** – results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Near Vision
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Recognition
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
**Skills You Need**

- Monitoring
- Active Listening
- Operation Monitoring
- Coordination
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Time Management
- Active Learning

**Education & Training**

Surgical technologists need an associate’s degree in surgical technology or related program.

**Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Median Skill Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Observation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening for Understanding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where They Work**

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of surgical technologists are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Physicians
- Offices of Dentists
- Employment Services
- Outpatient Care Centers

**SD Employment & Wages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>470</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$38,280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional References**

- Labor Market Information Center
  - [www.dlr.gov/mic](http://www.dlr.gov/mic)
- Career OneStop
  - [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- O*Net Online
  - [www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)
- mySkills myFuture
  - [www.myskillsmyfuture.org](http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org)

**Provided By**

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit [www.dlr.sd.gov/mic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/mic) and choose Career Exploration & Planning form the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

Updated March 2017.