

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

Surgical Technologist

Standard Occupational Code 29-2055.00

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 - Enjoy work activities that involve practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Social – Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping, and curing people. They are good with words.

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, allow use of strongest abilities and provide 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 – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action
- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times
- Operation Monitoring – Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly
- Coordination – Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems

Education & Training

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

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

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
510	580	70	14%	50	\$39,990

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Maintain sterile operative fields.
- Maintain inventory of medical supplies or equipment.
- Assist healthcare practitioners during surgery.
- Protect patients or staff members using safety equipment.
- Position patients for treatment or examination.
- Prepare biological specimens for laboratory analysis.
- Sterilize medical equipment or instruments.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org

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