

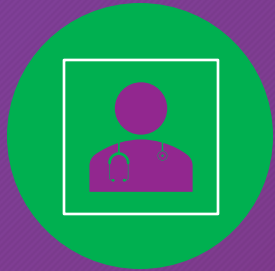
# Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

-SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY-

-INFORMATION SESSION-



# The goal of this information session.....



To provide you with information about the Surgical Technology program and to help you make an informed decision on whether this program (and career) are the right fit for you!



Our students are happy, engaged in their education and successful because they are a good fit for the career!



We want you to be happy and successful too!



**Surgical Technology is:**

- **Bones, blood, and guts**
- **Being calm under pressure**
- **Challenging and rewarding**
- **Focus without distraction**
- **Surgical conscience**
- **Mechanical inclination**

Learn more at: [abtech.edu/surgicaltech](http://abtech.edu/surgicaltech)

# Job Outlook from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Surgical  
Technology is  
listed in the top  
100 best jobs!!!



Growth has doubled  
since 2014 and is  
expected to continue  
that trend through  
2029 and beyond.



Job placement  
upon graduation  
(or before) is  
100%!!!

# Job Outlook from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- On this slide, look for:
  - Average national hourly wage and yearly salary (purple arrows).
  - Our local employers start graduates between ~\$27/hr to \$33/hr for the 2024/25 year.
  - Graduate salary greatly depends on how much you want to work! Work more, earn more!
  - Traveling is an option with this job. Traveling = \$\$\$\$\$\$
- Average growth for our profession (red arrow) – faster than average!

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Bureau of Labor Statistics > Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

## Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

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### Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2023

#### 29-2055 Surgical Technologists

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 surgeons' assistants, hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Excludes "Surgical Assistants" (29-9093).

[National estimates for Surgical Technologists](#)  
[Industry profile for Surgical Technologists](#)  
[Geographic profile for Surgical Technologists](#)

National estimates for Surgical Technologists:  
 Employment estimate and mean wage estimates for Surgical Technologists:



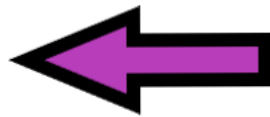
Employment (1)	Employment RSE (3)	Mean hourly wage	Mean annual wage (2)	Wage RSE (3)
110,320	0.9 %	\$ 29.93	\$ 62,250	0.3 %

Percentile wage estimates for Surgical Technologists:

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$ 19.54	\$ 24.01	\$ 29.14	\$ 34.86	\$ 39.98
Annual Wage (2)	\$ 40,640	\$ 49,940	\$ 60,610	\$ 72,520	\$ 83,150

**Quick Facts: Surgical Assistants and Technologists**

2023 Median Pay ?	\$60,370 per year \$29.03 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education ?	Postsecondary nondegree award
Work Experience in a Related Occupation ?	None
On-the-job Training ?	None
Number of Jobs, 2022 ?	128,900
Job Outlook, 2022-32 ?	5% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2022-32 ?	7,000

# Surgical Technologists...what we are (and aren't!)

## What we DO:

- This is a hands-on career.
- We handle bones, blood and guts on a regular basis.
- We work with alpha personalities.
- We thrive in stressful situations.
- We have a mechanical aptitude.
- We are neat and orderly by nature.
- We stand on our feet for long periods of time.
- We take call at night, on weekends and holidays.
- We work long hours, weekends, and holidays.
- We care about our patients!

## What we DON'T DO:

- We do not take care of awake/aware patients.
- We are not nurses or CNAs.
- We do not do paperwork.
- We do not take care of patients' families.
- We are not easily intimidated.

## WE ARE A FAMILY!

We are the **only** formally educated peri-operative professionals in the operating room.

# Program expectations reflect the expectations of the profession.....

## Students should:

- Possess reliable transportation.
- Be punctual/reliable.
- Be able to accept responsibility for one's own actions (or inactions) without blaming others.
- Be able to accept constructive criticism without being defensive.
- Be able to work under pressure.
- Be able to handle unpleasant sights and smells.
- Be tolerant of standing for long periods of time.
- Be able to lift 50 pounds.
- Be able to maneuver large awkward equipment on wheels.
- Be able to react and respond quickly.
- Be able to work in confined spaces.
- Be tolerant of temperature variations.
- Be attentive to personal hygiene.
- Be able to maintain confidentiality.



## A-B TECH SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY COURSE SCHEDULE

\*Schedule subject to change

**\*BIO 168 is a Program Acceptance Pre-Requisite Course\***

**It is HIGHLY recommended to get all NON-Surgical Technology courses completed prior to program start/fall semester I.**

### FALL SEMESTER I

- ACA 115
- BIO 169
- ENG 111
- SUR 110 Lecture Asynchronous On-line
- SUR 111 Lecture Asynchronous On-line
- SUR 111 Lab - TH **or** F 8:00 AM to 2:50 PM – mandatory attendance on the day you're assigned.
  - M, T - Be prepared to attend mandatory Clinical Site Orientations beginning in September and clinical observations after passing your clinical practicum (CP).
  - T, W – Open Lab opportunities are provided.

### SPRING SEMESTER I

- BIO 175
- SUR 122 W Lab 3:30p-6:30 PM and Lecture Asynchronous On-line
- SUR 123 M, T, W Clinical Rotations 6:00 AM to 2:20PM

### SUMMER SEMESTER

- SUR 134 Lecture Asynchronous On-line
- SUR 135 M, T, W Clinical Rotations 6:00 AM to 1:20PM

### FALL SEMESTER II

- COM 120
- PSY 150
- SUR 211 Lecture Asynchronous On-line
- SUR 212 M, T Clinical Rotations 6:00 AM to 1:20PM

### SPRING SEMESTER II

- HUM 115
- SOC 210
- SUR 137 W 9:00 AM to 9:50 AM (Hybrid)
  - Be prepared for on-site credentialing exam prep 8:00AM – 12:00PM
- SUR 210 M **or** T **or** W Clinical Rotation 6:00 AM to 1:20 PM
  - Must make up inclement weather day(s)

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# Surgical Technology

## -Program Schedule-

\*subject to change

- You can remove the classes you've already taken from this schedule.
- See how much easier it is to manage this schedule when you've knocked out all the classes other than the Surgical Technology (SUR) specific ones?

# Program Required General Ed Courses



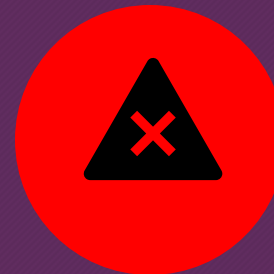
We strongly recommend starting this program with all BIO courses completed, not just the required BIO-168.



ENG-111, ACA-115 and BIO-169 are required the first semester along with your two SUR courses if they have not been previously taken.



Students who come in with few (or no) general education coursework completed ahead of time typically perform poorly in the program and generally do not progress to the second semester.



Please do not attempt this program without having some (or all) of your general education courses completed.



# Can I Still Work While in this Program?

We want you to be successful!

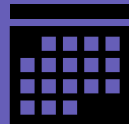
- Do not add too much to your plate, especially in the first semester.
- Get used to the routine first!



*Full-time employment while in school is not recommended, especially in the first fall semester.*



We lose students every year because they cannot juggle the program schedule and work full-time.



Work with your employer **NOW** to determine a workable schedule that meshes with the program schedule.

# Surgical Technology On-boarding (STO) Course

- **All** students who seek acceptance into the program will be provided access to our **FREE** Surgical Technology On-boarding (STO) course. \*STO access is managed by Surgical Technology program faculty.
- This **FREE** course is a great way to explore the curriculum and career.
- It will expose you to program resources and will allow you to communicate with current students and instructors!
- The STO will provide you with everything you need to prepare for the start of classes in August.
- Participation in the Surgical Technology On-boarding (STO) course is paramount to making a successful transition into fall semester. Log-in and take advantage of this opportunity!

# Applying to the Surgical Technology Program

Follow these steps....



Call, log onto the college website, or stop by the Bailey building to speak with a student advisor to establish yourself in the AB Tech system.



Review the mandatory “Information Session” (this PowerPoint and subsequent communication with the program chairperson satisfies this obligation).



Meet with a Student Advisor in the Bailey building to apply to the program. Applications open February 1<sup>st</sup> and extend through early March.



Schedule your TEAS examination ASAP to qualify for acceptance.



Make sure all transcripts from former educational experiences (schools you have attended other than A-B Tech) are submitted to the college ASAP.

# Admissions Ranking

- Students are ranked according to their TEAS scores.
- **Students can earn points to increase their rank!**
  - Refer to the “Surgical Technology Program Application Criteria” for how to earn additional points.
- The program will receive its acceptance list mid-April, at which point we will conditionally accept the top-ranked students.
- Once that list is received, the program will reach out to you directly to ask if you want your seat.
  - If you decline your seat, the program must have that declination from you via email.
- The remaining applicants are ranked in order of scoring (TEAS + points) and placed on a waitlist.



# Conditional Program Acceptance

- If you are on the waitlist, do not be discouraged.
- It is not uncommon to be pulled from the waitlist.
  - On average we go into the waitlist by at least 10 people by the start of the fall semester.
- If on the waitlist, remember that you must take and complete BIO-168 with a minimum grade of “C” **PRIOR** to fall semester start.
  - Failure to do so will result in you forfeiting your seat for this cycle as it is a pre-requisite to fall start.

# Collect Your Immunizations! The Timeline....

- January-April - log into the STO course frequently. Read “Step 1” and the course announcements.
- April-August - Once officially accepted into the program, return to Step 1. You will be provided with specific instructions to purchase a medical document tracker. This is common practice for Allied Health programs. DO NOT purchase the tracker ahead of time.
- PLEASE – start gathering your immunization NOW!
  - This can be a time-consuming task.
  - Start tackling it now!
- Look to the next slide for required vaccines.



# Collect Your Immunizations and Records!

## REQUIRED NOW

- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) X 2
- Current TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) vaccine = had in last 10 years)
- VARICELLA (Chicken Pox) Vaccine X 2 or Positive Blood Titer
- HEPATITIS B Vaccine Series X 3 **or** Positive Blood Titer (takes 6 months to complete)

## REQUIRED LATER

- Annual TB Two-Skin Testing (2 separate sticks with 2 separate reads) = **or** one QUANTIFERON Gold T-SPOT Blood Test (complete these **AFTER** May 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Annual INFLUENZA Vaccine
- COVID Vaccine (optional)
  - Speak with your healthcare provider.
  - Waiver available through Student Services.
- CPR - American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BCLS with AED) Program (complete this **AFTER** May 15<sup>th</sup>)

# Background Check and Drug Screen

- Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening
  - Students must have clear background checks and drug screens and be accepted by ALL clinical sites to progress in the program.
  - Clinical site clearance for student entry is governed by the clinical sites, NOT the college.
  - The program will provide you with specific instructions for purchasing and completing these requirements later.





# Be prepared to be successful



The number one reason students are unsuccessful:

They underestimate the rigor and demands of the program.



Most common excuses provided in lieu of the above:

The taking of additional general education courses was too difficult to manage.

- They could not manage their employment schedule and program schedule despite pre-planning.
- They could not manage their fall semester schedule due to taking general education courses.
- They experience financial issues despite pre-planning.
- They say they changed their mind....
  - This happens when grade and performance issues manifest due to failure of the student to take advantage of program resources.

# HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **After reviewing this slideshow, to move forward with your application, you must:**
  - Send an email to the program chairperson (view the next two slides for correct formatting)
    1. MANDATORY - The subject line of your email will include:
      - First and last name
      - 8-digit code found on the program schedule slide in this presentation.
    2. MANDATORY - The signature line of your email will include:
      - Your full name
      - Student ID number

\*\*There is an example email provided in two slides!

# HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS - cont.

- ***Answer the following in your \*email by typing the questions and your answers:***
  1. Do you understand the need to gather your immunizations records starting today?
  2. Do you understand the importance of staying involved in the Surg Tech On-boarding course?
  3. Do you have any other questions before proceeding with the admissions process?
- After your email correspondence, we will notify the admissions office that you are cleared to proceed with the application process.

\*If you already have an A-B Tech student email, please send us your email from that account.

# Example Email

**Send** [dropdown]

**To** danieljstokoe@abtech.edu

**Cc** Daniel Stokoe  
danieljstokoe@abtech.edu

**Bcc** Search Directory

YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND THE SECRET CODE

1. Do you understand the need to gather your immunizations records starting today? YOUR ANSWER HERE
2. Do you understand the importance of staying involved in the Surg Tech On-boarding course? YOUR ANSWER HERE
3. Do you have any other questions before proceeding with the admissions process? YOUR ANSWER HERE

Student full name:  
Student college ID:  
Student cellphone number:







# Lab Tours and Q & A Sessions

Surgical Technology  
Program Faculty




Mr. Daniel Stokoe, BS, CST  
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Cell: (828) 767-3596  
[Danieljstokoe@abtech.edu](mailto:Danieljstokoe@abtech.edu)





# Other Allied Health Programs

Program	Highlights
Cardiovascular Sonography and Medical Sonography   Cardiovascular Sonography      Medical Sonography	Sonographers use high frequency sound waves to produce dynamic visual images of organs, tissue, and blood flow. The program provides the individual with the knowledge and skills necessary to acquire, process and evaluate abdominal and pelvic organs, pregnancy, cardiac and vascular structures. Sonographers learn the normal appearance of organs and the different pathologies that can affect the structures that are examined. Sonography requires an in-depth understanding of clinical signs, symptoms and laboratory information associated with pathologies. The job outlook for 2021-2031 is 10% (faster than average) according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Dental Assisting 	One-year diploma program 100% employment rate Work alongside the dentist during fillings, extractions, crowns, root canals, etc., or can work in specialty offices
Dental Hygiene 	Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 9 percent from 2021 to 2031. Employment offers exciting and rewarding career opportunities. 100% employment rate 2-year program
Medical Laboratory Technology 	100% ASCP pass rate. 100% employment rate. Accredited by NAACLS, ensuring the highest standards of quality and excellence in education. Work in the laboratories of hospitals, doctor offices, research, and reference labs.
Occupational Therapy Assistant 	OTAs work with the entire population from newborns to hospice care with all different types of disabilities and challenges to participate in everyday life activities. Under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist, OTAs focus on providing treatments that help people with physical, psychological, and social needs to rebuild skills, health wellness, and functional independence in their homes and communities. Employment for OTAs is projected to grow 27% from 2018 to 2028.



Program	Highlights
Radiography 	Radiographers are the 3rd largest group of health care professionals. 100% ARRT certification test pass rate 100% employment rate Accredited by the JRCERT, the "gold standard" for excellence in education. Radiographers use X-rays to take pictures of the human body.
Surgical Technology 	100% pass rate on the national credentialing exam 100% employment rate 100% employer and graduate satisfaction Surgical technologists are the only formally educated perioperative professional in an operating room. Surgical technologists establish, prepare, and maintain the surgical field working alongside a surgeon assisting with surgical procedures.
Veterinary Medical Technology 	Assist veterinarians in surgery, perform laboratory, radiographic, anesthetic, and dental procedures while providing high-quality veterinary nursing care. Accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). Our graduates are highly sought after in our local veterinary community, with over 50 partnered practices and a 100% employment rate.



Program	Highlights
Medical Assisting 	One of the nation's fastest-growing careers through 2030. Medical assistants are multi-skilled health professionals specifically educated to work in a variety of healthcare settings performing clinical and administrative duties, e.g., basic laboratory tests, draw blood, give injections, prepare/administer medications, remove sutures, assist the physician during the exam, schedule appointments, billing, and bookkeeping. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Allied Health Education Programs
Phlebotomy 	16-week program: 8 weeks in class and 8 weeks in clinical #2 program in the Nation

