

**Functional Ability Categories  
&  
Representative Activities/Attributes  
For the  
Surgical Technologist/Technology Programs**

Gross Motor Skills:	Move within confined spaces Maintain balance in multiple positions Reach above shoulders (e.g., adjust overhead lights) Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlet) Reach out front
Fine Motor Skills:	Pick up objects with hands Grasp small objects with hands firm and slight (ex. surgical instruments, sutures) Write with pen or pencil Key/type (e.g., use a computer) Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe) Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands) Squeeze with finger (e.g., eye dropper) Manual dexterity Finger dexterity Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand foot (e.g., pumping soap dispenser and surgical scrub)
Physical Endurance:	Stand for long periods of time from 2-4 hours. Maintain same position for long periods of time Sustained repetitive movements Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours
Physical Strength:	Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., carry instrument pans, position client, move equipment) Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., hold arm or leg) Lift 50 pounds (e.g., pick up a child, transfer client, bend to lift an infant or child) Carry equipment/supplies (e.g., lift instrument pans) Use upper body strength (e.g., retraction, physically restrain a client) Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguishers)

Mobility:	Ability to: Stand Walk Twist, turn Bend, stoop, squat Sit Climb stairs Move quickly
Hearing:	Ability to hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g. person to person conversation, request for an instrument). Hear faint voices and body sounds (e.g., heartbeat) Ability to discriminate speech in presence of background noises. Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., masks are worn in the operating room)
Visual:	See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on monitor screen, identification of small needles) See objects up to 20 feet away Use depth perception Use peripheral vision Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies) See in darkened room (e.g., during endoscopic procedures, eye surgery)
Tactile:	Feel vibrations (e.g., palpate pulses) Detect temperature (e.g., solutions) Feel differences in surface characteristics Feel differences in sizes, shapes Detect environment temperature
Environment:	Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, chemical \ substances) Tolerate strong soaps Tolerate strong odors Exposure and tolerate unpleasant sights and sounds, electrical energy, solvents, grease, oils, slippery or uneven walking surfaces and excessive noises Tolerate working in confined spaces for extended periods of time Tolerate wearing protective equipment (e.g., mask, gown, gloves, glasses, laser, radiation) Tolerate working indoors Tolerate working in extreme temperatures
Reading:	Read and understand written documents/Read digital displays

Math:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to count, add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers.</li> <li>Compute fractions and decimals.</li> <li>Document numbers in records.</li> <li>Tell and measure time.</li> <li>Read measurement marks (e.g., rulers, scale)</li> </ul>
Emotional Stability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish professional relationships</li> <li>Adapt to changing environment/stress</li> <li>Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)</li> <li>Focus attention on task</li> <li>Cope with own emotions</li> <li>Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently</li> <li>Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief, anger, stress)</li> <li>Accept constructive feedback</li> <li>Accept responsibility for own actions</li> </ul>
Analytical Thinking: (written or oral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer knowledge from one situation to another</li> <li>Process and interpret information from multiple sources</li> <li>Analyze and interpret abstract and concrete data</li> <li>Evaluate outcomes</li> <li>Problem solve</li> <li>Prioritize tasks (e.g., time management)</li> <li>Use long-term memory</li> <li>Use short-term memory</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify cause-effect relationships</li> <li>Plan/control activities (organizational skills)</li> <li>Sequence information</li> <li>Make decisions independently</li> <li>Adapt decisions based on new information</li> <li>Comprehend and follow instructions Follow a process from start to finish (e.g., 2 or more step' instruction)</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport with individuals (e.g., surgeons, staff members) and groups</li> <li>Respect/value diversity in others</li> <li>Negotiate interpersonal conflict</li> <li>Demonstrate tolerance in working with others</li> <li>Function as part of a team</li> </ul>
Communication Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak English</li> <li>Write English</li> <li>Listen/comprehend spoken/written word</li> <li>Collaborate with others (e.g., health care workers, peers)</li> <li>Comprehend and exhibit non-verbal communication</li> </ul>

**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS/TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**

*Statement of Understanding*

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794) prohibits discrimination of persons because of her or his disability. In keeping with these laws, colleges of the Wisconsin Technical College System make every effort to insure a quality education for students. The purpose of this document is to ensure that students acknowledge that they have been provided information on the functional abilities required of a student in the Surgical Technologists/Technology program. In addition, information was given to the student on reasonable accommodations to meet the *Functional Abilities* at this time.

**This form is to be completed upon admission to the Surgical Technologist/  
Technology program  
and at the time of Surgical Technologist/Technology Clinical Placement.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials) I have read and I understand the *Functional Ability Categories* specific to a student in a Surgical Technologist/Technology program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials) I am able to meet the *Functional Abilities* as presented, and have been provided with information concerning accommodations or special services if needed at this time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date