Is surgical technology a job with a future?
Yes! It has a future due to the growth potential of the profession and it has been growing for a number of years. The “Occupational Outlook Handbook” is published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and states, “Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified. Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow 25% between 2008 – 2018; much faster than the average for all occupations, as the volume of surgeries increases.” The number of surgical procedures is expected to rise as the population grows and ages. Older people, including the baby boom generation, who generally require more surgical procedures, will account for a larger potion of the general population. Technological advances, such as fiber optics and laser technology, will permit an increasing number of new surgical procedures to be performed and also will allow surgical technologists to assist with a greater number of procedures.”

However, due to the recent challenges in the economy, as with most jobs, the health professions have seen some slowing in job growth. Individuals entering any health profession need to realize that the job search is going to require concentrated effort in order to land that first position.

Where can I find information about surgical technology job earnings?
The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) provides a salary map on its web site: [http://www.ast.org/professionals/professionals_about_prof_stats.aspx](http://www.ast.org/professionals/professionals_about_prof_stats.aspx) At the top of the page click on the link to the U.S. Department of Labor [Occupational Outlook Handbook](http://www.bls.gov) where more salary information can be found.

Is there an opportunity for advancement in the field of ST?
Yes. Some health care facilities have “clinical ladders” which allow the CST to gain experience and have the opportunity to move up the clinical ladder to reflect the level of experience that has been gained over time and possibly be provided with additional responsibilities. Some CSTs gain supervisory/management positions in particular in the medical sales field and central sterile supply department. CSTs may choose to learn the surgical first assistant roles and duties and achieve the CSFA credential. The National Board of Surgical Technology & Surgical Assisting ([www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org)) provides the routes for establishing eligibility to take the surgical first assistant national certification examination. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) lists accredited surgical technology and surgical first assistant programs.

How many hours a week do surgical technologists work? What about over time?
Usually STs work a 40-hour week and the employer provides benefits including vacation with the number of days decided on the length of employment at the facility. Overtime depends on the size of the health care facility. Large hospitals may have 1-2 shifts, day and evening, and the evening shift is usually responsible for finishing up the regularly scheduled surgical procedures that may not have been completed by the end of the day shift and handling the emergency procedures that often occur during the night; so there may not be too much overtime or emergency call for the CST. However, in smaller rural hospitals there may only be 2-3 CSTs and therefore overtime may occur as well as taking on emergency call on a more frequent basis which is also considered overtime.

What type of education is needed to be qualified as a surgical technologist?
Surgical technology programs are either a one-year certificate program or 2-year associate degree program. The difference between the 1- and 2-year programs is that the individual is required to complete additional general education courses such as math, English, and sociology or psychology coursework within an associate degree program.
However, no matter the length of the program, the student will still learn the same core surgical technology knowledge in the classroom and lab, and be required to complete a surgical rotation.

**Of all the subjects studied in school, which ones do surgical technologists use most on the job?**
This is a difficult question to answer because all of the surgical technology knowledge a student learns is integrated and put into use in the operating room. One course that is highly necessary is Human Anatomy & Physiology. This is a core course that the student must understand and be able to recall the information during their entire career as a surgical technologist.

**Is any type of apprenticeship/internship program required for ST students?**
Yes, students are required to complete a surgical clinical rotation. The student is assigned a preceptor on a daily basis who oversees the training of the student in the operating room. The student starts out performing the role of the surgical technologist on fairly simple minor procedures and, during the course of the rotation, advances to more difficult procedures in a variety of surgical specialties.

**What is most enjoyable about the job?**
If surgical technology is the right career for you, you will find it very rewarding. You will assist on surgical procedures that few others even get to observe. It is unlikely a day will go by that you do not learn something new. If you are willing to challenge yourself by learning a variety of cases and specialties, you will find that your interest level will remain high and you will prove to be a valuable employee. You will develop your ability to think independently during fast paced and challenging situations. Most importantly, you have the opportunity to participate as part of a team providing quality and safe care to surgical patients.

**What type of people are encountered in the daily routine of a ST?**
Surgery is a high stress environment that tends to attract Type A personalities which can sometimes lend to tense moments both in and out of the operating room. Like any place of employment where you see the same people day-in-and-day-out, work place conflicts can occur— but that is when individuals need to show some maturity and work out the difficulty in a professional manner. Overall, everyone is there to work as a team towards the goal of delivering safe, quality surgical patient care.

**What are the primary locations of work for the surgical technologist?**
Most surgical technologists work in the operating room at health care facilities from small hospitals to large medical centers; physicians’ clinic; or ambulatory surgery centers. There are surgical technologists that work in related areas of surgery including anesthesia technician and central sterile supply, as well as alternative areas of employment such as veterinarian technicians and medical sales representatives.

**Are there specialties in the profession? Other career options?**
Some surgical technologists may specialize in a specific surgical specialty such as orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, or ophthalmic surgery. For the most part, the majority of surgical technologists are expected to know how to assist the surgeon in all types of procedures in all the surgical specialties.

Depending on the goals of the individual there are other career options, some of which require attaining a higher degree such as associate or bachelor level. Options include educator/instructor in a surgical technology program (colleges often require a higher degree as a condition of employment); medical sales representative (higher degree may be required); surgical first assistant; supervisor/manager such as for a central sterile supply department (may require higher degree and some years as a surgical technology practitioner).

**Are there other professional credentials that are of benefit to a surgical technologist?**
Surgical specialty credentials are not offered by the NBSTSA or any other organization. The CST and CSFA credentials discussed in other sections of this document are the primary credentials in the surgical technology and surgical first assisting professions. One credential that is popular with surgical technologists is the Certified Registered Central

*Revised July 2018*
Service Technician (CRCST) that is offered by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM; http://www.iahcsmm.org).

Does AST have information as to the average length of time individuals stay in the profession?
Based AST survey information, the majority of individuals stay in the profession an average of 10 – 12 years. However, there are indicators that the CSTs are starting to stay in the profession longer, up to 15 years as the average.

Are there other professional organizations that are of benefit to the CST?
If the CST acquires the CRCST credential, he/she may also want to be a member of IAHCSMM since that is the professional organization that represents the central sterile supply technicians. Additionally, if the CST earns the CSFA credential he/she is encouraged to join the Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA), the partner organization of AST that represents the surgical first assistants.

What are the continuing education requirements in order to renew the CST credential? How is continuing education important to the CST?
The certification cycle is 4 years; the CST must complete 60 continuing education (CE) credits during the cycle in order to renew the credential. The CST submits the CE documentation to AST for processing and recording. AST maintains a CE file for the member; the non-member is required to submit their CE documentation towards the end of the 4-year cycle and also pay the $400 non-member CE processing fee.

CE credits can be earned through a variety of methods such as attending health care facility/surgery department inservices; attending AST live events such as the Annual National Conference; completing AST on-line CE articles; attend your AST state assembly meetings; certain college courses are accepted for CE credits; and attend conferences offered by physician’s organizations such as the American College of Surgeons.

Continuing education is important to all health professions. It demonstrates to patients, peers, other health care professionals, and the public that the CST is maintaining as well as advancing their knowledge in order to continue to provide quality, safe surgical patient care. With the rapid changes and progress in technology and surgical procedure techniques, the CST should have a high sense of duty towards the surgical patient to remain current in his/her knowledge of surgery and patient care.

How important is certification and AST membership?
Even though certification is not required by every employer or state, it is important to be accountable to the public and patients by remaining certified to demonstrate that you have the requisite knowledge and skills to work with the surgical team in providing quality surgical patient care. Additionally, surveys demonstrate the CST generally makes a better wage than the non-certified surgical technologist. Two more important points – more and more employers over the years have required certification as a condition of employment and currently eight states have legislation in place requiring the CST credential as a condition of employment: Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. AST continues to work on its legislative efforts to have this legislation passed in more states, so it only makes sense to get certified and not be left behind.

Just as with certification, AST membership is important. It is the national organization that represents CSTs on a daily basis to employers, legislators, public, patients and other health care providers. Member Benefits can be found on the AST web site. AST continuing education offerings help by advancing surgical technologists knowledge with the goal of improving the members’ ability to provide quality surgical patient care. Also of importance is AST’s legislative efforts on the behalf of the membership as well as the publishing of the profession’s own Standards of Practice.

What physical capabilities are required of a Surgical Technologist?
Students enrolled in the surgical technology program are required to successfully complete both academic and clinical requirements. The program has adopted a list of Essential Functions to delineate the physical, cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills deemed the minimal necessary for admission, progression, and program completion and for the provision of safe and effective client care as a surgical technologist. The Essential Functions can be found in the Surgical Technology Program Application.
How can I find out more about the CCC ST program?
Begin by reviewing the Surgical Technology Program Application packet which includes the curriculum plan, program costs, and the point system used to select students for enrollment in the program. Additionally, it is highly recommended that you attend a program information session. If you still have unanswered questions, the allied health secretary can be contacted by telephone or email with unanswered questions.

Allied Health Secretary: Misty Greene misty.greene@calhoun.edu 256-306-2786

When does the program begin?
A new class of twenty-four (24) surgical technology students is enrolled each fall semester, and a class of twenty (20) to begin in the spring semester. The program consists of three semesters of consecutive surgical technology courses which must be taken in sequence. Only students who have applied to the program and have been accepted are allowed to enroll in SUR courses.

How many students are admitted to the program each year?
Forty-four (44) total students are admitted each year. 24 in the Fall Semester and 20 in the Spring Semester.

Can you start the program in the summer semester?
No. A new class of students begins each fall and spring. The three semesters of sequential SUR courses build on the knowledge gained in the previous semester.

What classes or courses must I first take in order to be eligible to apply to the ST Program?
ST program applicants must have minimally completed English Composition I (ENG 101), Medical Terminology (EMS 106), and a mathematics course (MTH 100, MTH 110, or MTH 112) prior to applying for enrollment.

Completion of some or all of the other general education courses required for the certificate or associates of applied science degree in ST will improve your application score and therefore your chances of being offered enrollment. Acceptance into the program is competitive and students are selected based on the published point system. http://webnt.calhoun.edu/surgtech/rankingsheet.pdf

How many semesters are there in the ST program?
The surgical technology coursework is 3 semesters in length. Students may graduate from the program with either a certificate or associates of applied science degree depending on the general education coursework completed (see below) in addition to SUR classes. Students may elect to take the remaining general education classes in any order or complete all classes prior to enrollment in the ST program. General education courses must be taken and passed with a C or higher prior to graduating from the program.
### Schedule of Classes for Fall Semester Start

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surgical Technology Certificate = 44 credit hours</th>
<th>Surgical Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree = 62 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prior to Admission into the program:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prior to Admission into the program:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 101: English Composition I</td>
<td>ORI 110: Freshman Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS 106: Medical Terminology</td>
<td>ENG 101: English Composition I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Elective (See listing below)</td>
<td>EMS 106: Medical Terminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
<td>BIO 201: Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 credits</strong></td>
<td>Math Elective (See listing below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
<td>BIO 202: Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 100: Principles of Surgical Technology</td>
<td>PSY 200: Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 102: Applied Surgical Techniques</td>
<td>Speech Elective (See listing below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 107: ST Anatomy and Pathophysiology</td>
<td>Humanities Elective (See listing below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 108: Pharmacology for the ST</td>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
<td><strong>26 credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Semester</strong></td>
<td>SUR 100: Principles of Surgical Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 103: Surgical Procedures</td>
<td>SUR 102: Applied Surgical Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Elective (See listing below)</td>
<td>SUR 107: ST Anatomy and Pathophysiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
<td>SUR 108: Pharmacology for the ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 105: Surgical Practicum II</td>
<td>SUR 103: Surgical Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 106: Role Transition in ST</td>
<td>SUR 104: Surgical Practicum I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUR 204: Surgical Practicum III</td>
<td>PSY 210: Human Growth and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer Semester</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>SUR 105: Surgical Practicum II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SUR 106: Role Transition in ST</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SUR 204: Surgical Practicum III</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total =</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10 credits</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All SUR courses must be taken and successfully completed in the order delineated by the curriculum plan. **Three semesters are required even when all general education coursework has been completed prior to enrollment.**

### What general education course work is required for an associate of applied science degree in surgical technology?
- Freshman Seminar (ORI 110)
- English Composition I (ENG 101)
- Medical Terminology (EMS 106)
- A mathematics elective (MTH 100, MTH 112, or MTH 116 are the recommended choices)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIO 201 & 202)
- General Psychology (PSY 200)
- Human Growth and Development (PSY 210)
- A speech elective (SPH 106 or SPH 107)
- A humanities elective (Art, Music, Foreign Language, Philosophy, Religion, Theatre, Literature)
- = 29 credit hours of general education

### What general education course work is required for a surgical technology certificate?
- English Composition I (ENG 101)
- Medical Terminology (EMS 106)
- A mathematics elective (MTH 100, MTH 112, or MTH 116 are the recommended choices)
- A speech elective (SPH 106 or SPH 107) – or English Composition II (ENG 102)
- = 11 credit hours of general education

Revised July 2018
Schedule of Classes for Spring Semester Start

### Surgical Technology Certificate = 44 credit hours

**Prior to Admission into the program:**
- ENG 101: English Composition I 3 credits
- EMS 106: Medical Terminology 2 credits
- Math Elective (See listing below) 3 credits

Total = 8 credits

**Spring Semester**
- SUR 100: Principles of Surgical Technology 5 credits
- SUR 102: Applied Surgical Techniques 4 credits
- SUR 107: ST Anatomy and Pathophysiology 3 credits
- SUR 108: Pharmacology for the ST 2 credits

Total = 14 credits

**Summer Semester**
- SUR 103: Surgical Procedures 5 credits
- Speech Elective (See listing below) 3 credits

Total = 8 credits

**Fall Semester**
- SUR 104: Surgical Practicum I 4 credits
- SUR 105: Surgical Practicum II 5 credits
- SUR 106: Role Transition in ST 1 credits
- SUR 204: Surgical Practicum III 4 credits

Total = 14 credits

All SUR courses must be taken and successfully completed in the order delineated by the curriculum plan. **Three semesters are required even when all general education coursework has been completed prior to enrollment.**

### Surgical Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree = 62 credits

**Prior to Admission into the program:**
- ORI 110: Freshman Seminar 1 credit
- ENG 101: English Composition I 3 credits
- EMS 106: Medical Terminology 2 credits
- BIO 201: Human Anatomy & Physiology I 4 credits
- Math Elective (See listing below) 3 credits
- BIO 202: Human Anatomy & Physiology II 4 credits
- PSY 200: Introduction to Psychology 3 credits
- Speech Elective (See listing below) 3 credits
- Humanities Elective (See listing below) 3 credits

Total = 26 credits

**Spring Semester**
- SUR 100: Principles of Surgical Technology 5 credits
- SUR 102: Applied Surgical Techniques 4 credits
- SUR 107: ST Anatomy and Pathophysiology 3 credits
- SUR 108: Pharmacology for the ST 2 credits

Total = 14 credits

**Summer Semester**
- SUR 103: Surgical Procedures 5 credits
- PSY 210: Human Growth and Development 3 credits

Total = 8 credits

**Fall Semester**
- SUR 104: Surgical Practicum I 4 credits
- SUR 105: Surgical Practicum II 5 credits
- SUR 106: Role Transition in ST 1 credits
- SUR 204: Surgical Practicum III 4 credits

Total = 14 credits

### What general education course work is required for an associate of applied science degree in surgical technology?
- Freshman Seminar (ORI 110)
- English Composition I (ENG 101)
- Medical Terminology (EMS 106)
- A mathematics elective (MTH 100, MTH 112, or MTH 116 are the recommended choices)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIO 201 & 202)
- General Psychology (PSY 200)
- Human Growth and Development (PSY 210)
- A speech elective (SPH 106 or SPH 107)
- A humanities elective (Art, Music, Foreign Language, Philosophy, Religion, Theatre, Literature)
- = 29 credit hours of general education

### What general education course work is required for a surgical technology certificate?
- English Composition I (ENG 101)
- Medical Terminology (EMS 106)
- A mathematics elective (MTH 100, MTH 112, or MTH 116 are the recommended choices)
- A speech elective (SPH 106 or SPH 107) – or English Composition II (ENG 102)
- = 11 credit hours of general education
How do I apply to the CCC Surgical Technology program?
Applications are available on-line. If you are unable to complete the digital form, please contact the Allied Health Secretary (Misty Greene) in the Health Sciences Center, Decatur Campus between the hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday or 8:00 AM – 11:30AM on Friday at 256-306-2786 or by email at misty.greene@calhoun.edu.

START THE APPLICATION PROCESS WELL IN ADVANCE

When can I apply?
Applications for the next class of surgical technology students starting spring semester 2019 are being accepted. The deadline for application submission is September 30, 2018 at 11:59 PM. No application submitted past this time will be considered.

What must I do to apply to the surgical technology program?
The minimum requirements for admission to the CCC ST Program are listed in online at www.calhoun.edu/surgeon.
Applicants must minimally:

- Meet all admission requirements of Calhoun Community College
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have completed English Composition I (ENG 101) with a grade of C or >
- Have completed Medical Terminology (EMS 106) with a grade of C or >
  - Intermediate College Algebra (MTH 100)
  - Finite Mathematics (MTH 110)
  - Precalculus Algebra (MTH 112)
- Attend an Information session. The Surgical Technology Program will present a Program Information session 4 times during the Summer/Fall Semesters, 2018. All sessions will be held on the Decatur Campus, in room 203 of the Health Sciences Building. There will be a short quiz at the end of the Information Session.

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- Complete a Manual Dexterity Exam on the assigned dates during the Summer Semester. Emails will be sent by October 10th with your options to schedule the exam.
- Submit a 2019 Surgical Technology application.

Admission to the program is selective as the number of students is limited by the number of faculty and availability of clinical experiences. Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

How are students selected for enrollment in ST?
Because only 20 students can be enrolled each spring, there is a point system used to evaluate each candidate. Completion of general education coursework as well as the grades obtained in these classes is heavily weighted as students who have demonstrated academic success in these foundational classes will best be poised for success in the rigorous ST program. See the application for further details. http://webnt.calhoun.edu/surgtech/rankingsheet.pdf

ST APPLICATION SCORING SYSTEM

- **General Education Classes.** Up to 70 points may be earned based on the completion of any or all of the required general education courses and the grades received in each course.
  http://webnt.calhoun.edu/surgtech/rankingsheet.pdf
- **Manual Dexterity Exam.** Emails/Letters will be sent to the your calhoun.edu email address by October 10th with your scheduled day and time for the exam. (20 points possible)
- **Program Information Session.** Program Information Sessions are scheduled during summer/fall semesters. Students will complete a short quiz over the information presented. (10 points possible)
  Total points possible = 100
READ ALL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE MISSING THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION WILL RESULT IN THE APPLICANT NOT BEING CONSIDERED.

What if I took some of the general education coursework at another college?
At least one month prior to application to the ST program, you should apply for general admission to CCC and under intended academic program list “surgical technology”. Have your transcripts from all other colleges you’ve attended sent to the Office of Admissions and Records as soon as possible. Admissions and Records will evaluate your previous college work to determine which, if any, courses fulfill the ST requirements.

Note: Only the CCC Office of Admissions and Records may determine if coursework transferred from other institutions meets the general education requirements for the ST degree.

- **IF YOU HAVE TAKEN CLASSES AT CCC:** Classes accepted in transfer will appear on your unofficial transcript which is accessible via MYCALHOUN.

- **IF YOU HAVE NEVER ATTENDED CCC:** Once all of your transcripts from other institutions you have attended reach the CCC Office of Admissions and Records, they will need at least two weeks to complete a transcript evaluation. Your unofficial transcript showing coursework accepted in transfer will be available in MYCALHOUN. Office of Admissions & Records telephone: 256-306-2593.

How do I know if coursework taken at another college will transfer?
The only way to know if classes taken at another institution will transfer and apply to a degree in ST is to have your transcripts evaluated by the Office of Admissions and Records. A minimum of two weeks should be allowed for the evaluation of transfer credit.

What about the information session?
The Surgical Technology Program will present a Program Information session 4 times during the Summer/Fall Semesters, 2018. All sessions will be held on the Decatur Campus, in room 203 of the Health Sciences Building. There will be a short quiz at the end of the Information Session.

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What is the “manual dexterity test”?
Eligible applicants will be invited to sit for a manual dexterity test given at Calhoun Community College in October 2018. Applicants may earn up to 20 points for completion of the test. The manual dexterity test used by the Calhoun ST program is the Purdue Pegboard. The manual dexterity test is used to assess a student’s bimanual coordination and the results are used to advise students entering the program. Points are awarded by competitive scoring of the results of all applicants completing the test for this admission.

Can I study or practice ahead of time for the manual dexterity test?
All students are allowed to complete a short practice attempt the day of the manual dexterity test before starting the 3 attempts that will be averaged to determine an applicant’s score. No prior practice is necessary.

When will I be notified if I’ve been accepted into the ST program?
Each application is individually evaluated by the ST program Admissions Committee. An invitation to enroll in the ST program will be sent to the 20 students with the highest application score. In the event of a tie, the applicant’s Manual Dexterity Score will determine the selection for admission. Final decisions are made in late October and letters will be emailed by mid-November to all applicants at the address provided on the application.

Revised July 2018
Is there a waiting list?
No. Twenty students will receive an acceptance letter to enroll in the surgical technology program in the spring. If there is an unexpected opening in the program because a slot is not taken, the next highest ranked applicant will be contacted and offered enrollment.

Applications are not “carried over” to the next year. If you are not accepted into the program, you must reapply the following year.

What expenses are involved in the ST program?
Tuition and fees as of Spring 2019 = $160.00 / credit hour.
Additional estimated program costs:

- Malpractice insurance (per year) 10.00
- Drug Screen / Background Check 100.00
- Textbooks 600.00
- Health exam, immunizations, PPD test Varies
- CPR certification course Varies
- Uniforms 200.00
- NBSTSA Practice Exam 50.00
- Certification Exam 265.00

Do I have to have a background check, a physical examination, drug testing, or have taken CPR to apply to the ST Program?
None of the above are required to apply to the ST program. However, all will be needed once you are enrolled to comply with the requirements of our clinical facilities. DO NOT PROCEED WITH HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, BACKGROUND CHECKS, or CPR UNTIL DIRECTED TO DO SO. If a background check or a confirmed positive drug screen renders a student ineligible to participate in clinical experiences, they will be dismissed from the ST Program.

Background Check – General Guidelines
CCC Health Sciences students will be accepted to participate in a clinical rotation if their background check reveals:

- No history of criminal offenses
- Misdemeanors for expired or failure to obtain a hunting or fishing license
- Misdemeanors for traffic or moving violations (excluding DUI)
- Any single misdemeanor > 2 years old

Students will not be allowed to attend clinical rotations if their background check reveals:

- Any misdemeanor < 2 years old that is related to crimes against the person (such as assault and battery), crimes based on dishonesty or untruthfulness (such as theft or embezzlement), or drug and other substance abuse related crimes.
- A felony conviction < 5 years old.
- A felony conviction that is a crime against a person such as battery or assault.

A student will be considered for clinical rotations on a case by case basis if their background check reveals:

- Any felony that is crimes based on dishonesty or untruthfulness (such as theft or embezzlement) or drug and other substance abuse related crimes AND > 5 years old (all decisions made by the review committee are final and may not be appealed.)
- Multiple misdemeanors regardless of length of time since offense (all decisions made by the review committee are final and may not be appealed).”

What are “clinical practicum experiences”?
Students are assigned clinical practice rotations during summer and fall semesters. In addition to each rotation the student will be in the classroom 3 to 6 hours per week and will need to spend 15 to 20 hours per week outside of class
and clinical reading and working on homework assignments. Prior to assignment to a clinical facility a student must undergo a background check and drug screening, purchase medical malpractice insurance, and show proof of current CPR certification at the healthcare provider level.

During clinical rotations students are assigned to full shifts of 8 or 12 hours. For students starting in the program fall semester, clinical practice is usually scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during spring semester and Monday through Friday during summer semester. For students starting in the program spring semester, clinical practice is usually scheduled Monday through Friday during fall semester. The hours for clinical are generally between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Additionally, SUR 105 and 106 lecture is typically scheduled on Thursday evenings. Clinical assignments are based on the learning needs of the student, not geographical proximity to the home or work or family commitments. Students must have reliable transportation, flexibility in their personal schedules, and the willingness to commute to clinical sites throughout north Alabama.

Will I be able to work and attend the surgical technology program?
The ST program requires commitment. Successful students report studying approx. two hours for each contact hour of lecture classes per week. Sound study skills and time management are critical to achievement. Therefore, it is recommended that students do not work more than 20 hours per week. Classes and clinical experiences may be scheduled during the day Mondays through Fridays and student attendance is required. See the CCC Catalog for Attendance Policies.

The ST Program Application says the grading policy is different. Why is that?
The ST program grading policy is more stringent than the general college grading policy. In order to pass a SUR course the student must receive a grade of 75% or greater. Students who do not receive a minimum of 75% as a final grade in a SUR course will not be allowed to progress in the program. It is the belief of the faculty that having a strict grading policy will help to better ensure student knowledge and competency.

Are ST classes at CCC offered by distance education or in the evenings?
All ST classes will be scheduled during day time hours, Mondays through Fridays on the Decatur campus only.

Which campus?
All ST classes will be held on the Decatur campus in the Health Sciences Center.

Is the CCC Surgical Technology Program accredited?
The CCC Surgical Technology Program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), 25400 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, Florida 33763, phone (727) 210-2350, www.caahep.org upon the recommendation of Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 110, Littleton, Colorado 80120, phone (303)694-9262, www.arcstsa.org

Graduates of CAAHEP accredited programs are eligible to sit for the National Certified Surgical Technologist exam. The CST exam is managed by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).