

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS
REQUIRED OF SURGICAL TECHNICIAN STUDENTS

MOTOR CAPABILITY:

- Move from room to room and maneuver in small places.
- Transfer patients who may require physical assistance.
- Guard and assist patients with ambulation.
- Lift and carry up to 50 pounds and exert up to 100 pounds force for push/pull.
- Squat, bend/stoop, reach above shoulder level, kneel, use standing balance and climb stairs.
- Use hands repetitively; use manual dexterity.
- Adjust, apply, and clean medical equipment.
- Perform CPR.
- Travel to and from academic and clinical sites.
- In the average clinical day, students may stand 6-12 hours and travel 1-2 hours.

SENSORY CAPABILITY:

- Coordinate verbal and manual instruction.
- Assess a patient 10 feet away to observe patients posture and response to treatment.
- Respond to a timer, alarm, or cries for help.
- Monitor vital signs.
- Apply auditory, visual, tactile ability sufficient to assess patient status and perform treatments (Example: color changes in skin, heart and lung sound).

COMMUNICATION ABILITY:

- Communicate effectively in English with patients and other health care providers, both verbally and in writing.
- Effectively adapt communication for intended audience.
- Interact and establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- Assume the role of a healthcare team member.
- Function effectively under supervision
- Sensitivity to and understanding of the needs of the patient as well as other members of the surgical team with a strong desire to help others and make a valuable contribution to society.
- Stable temperament and strong sense of responsibility.
- Thick-skinned, appropriate coping skills.

PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITY:

- Function effectively and appropriately under stress.
- Respond effectively to emergencies and keep focused.
- Adhere to infection control procedures.

- Demonstrate problem-solving skill in patient care (measure, calculate, reason, prioritize, synthesize data)
- Use sound judgment and exercise standard precautions.
- Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
- Organize and prioritize tasks in stressful and emergency situations.
- Follow policies and procedures required by clinical and academic settings.
- Ability to work quickly and accurately with a commitment to detail, attendance, and focus.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- The Operating Room is a brightly lit, relatively quietly and a temperature controlled environment.
- Frequent exposure to communicable diseases, unpleasant sounds, odors, and hazardous materials such as: chemicals, radiation, anesthetic material.
- Most surgical procedures are carried out during the day, and a 32 hour workweek is required. The Surgical Technician Student may be required to work the day, evening, or night shift.