

Professional Expectations:

Where can I work once I graduate?

The vast majority of surgical technologists work in hospitals, in the operating room. Other employment opportunities include working at a surgery center, at a doctor's office, as an obstetrical unit technologist, as an educator, in Central Sterile Supply (within a hospital) and as a medical industry representative.

How much will I make?

As of 2020, surgical technologists earned an average wage of \$23.90 an hour. Annual salaries vary based on location, and more details can be found by visiting the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) website.

What kind of work schedule can I expect as a Surgical Technologist?

Employment opportunities will vary, but include daytime positions which begin early in the morning, around 6:30 AM. The duration of a typical work day varies greatly—anywhere from 8-12 hours depending on the facility. Nighttime positions also exist in facilities that provide 24-hour care, such as trauma centers and maternity units. Most surgical procedures are scheduled during the regular Monday-Friday work week. Surgical technologists who work for hospitals or facilities that provide 24-hour care can expect to take call or work occasional weekend and holiday hours to be available to respond to emergency cases.

What is the working environment like?

Surgical technologists are members of the operative team, providing **direct patient care** among physicians and nurses. Good interpersonal communication skills are paramount to ensure quality patient care. Surgical technologists also must possess good manual dexterity and organizational skills. Attributes such as compassion, empathy and honesty are also vital for surgical technologists.

The work environment can be physically demanding, as they are on their feet for long periods of time. Surgical technologists may also need to help move patients, lift trays of instruments and medical supplies. At times, they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights and odors.

Do I have to be certified to work in this field?

Currently, the states requiring certification to work as a surgical technologist are Indiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Idaho. There are several states that require registration to work as a surgical technologist, and certification is one way of registering. At this time, Kansas does not require certification to obtain employment, however many employers prefer the certification and the Kansas State Assembly is pursuing legislative changes for the future of the profession.

Is the certification only good in Kansas?

No! The certification is nationally recognized, therefore CSTs can obtain employment in all 50 states without having to retake the test or pay additional fees to transfer credentials across state lines!