

Surgical Technologist

Surgical Technologists, also called *Operating Room Technicians*, assist with operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

Surgical Technologists typically do the following:

- Prepare operating rooms for surgery
- Sterilize equipment and make sure that there are adequate supplies for surgery
- Ready patients for surgery, such as by washing and disinfecting incision sites
- Help surgeons during surgery by passing them instruments and other sterile supplies
- Count supplies, such as surgical instruments, to ensure that no foreign objects are retained in patients
- Maintain a sterile environment to prevent patient infection

Surgical Technologists work as members of a healthcare team alongside Physicians and Surgeons, Registered Nurses, and other healthcare workers.

Before an operation, Surgical Technologists prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment. They prepare sterile solutions and medications used in surgery and check that all surgical equipment is working properly. Surgical Technologists also bring patients to the operating room and get them ready for surgery by positioning them on the table, covering them with sterile drapes, and washing and disinfecting incision sites. And they help the surgical team put on sterile gowns.

During an operation, Surgical Technologists pass the sterile instruments and supplies to surgeons and first assistants. They might hold retractors, hold internal organs in place during the procedure, or set up robotic surgical equipment. Technologists also may handle specimens taken for laboratory analysis.

After the operation is complete, Surgical Technologists may apply bandages and other dressings to the incision site. They may also transfer patients to recovery rooms and restock operating rooms after a procedure.

Work Environment

Most surgical technologists work full time. Surgical technologists employed in hospitals may work or be on call during nights, weekends, and holidays. They may also be required to work shifts lasting longer than 8 hours.

Watch a video about being a Surgical Technologist

Top Local Employers: Kaiser Permanente, Stanford Health Care, Clinical Management Consultants, American Mobile Healthcare, Surg Tech, Inc.

Median Pay

\$70,268

Job Growth (2020-2025)

13%

Education and Training

Surgical Technologists typically need a postsecondary nondegree award or an associate degree. Certification can be beneficial in finding a job. A small number of states regulate Surgical Technologists.

Local Education:

[Skyline College](#)

For More Information:

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[Association of Surgical Technologists](#)

