Surgical Technology

Surgical technologists, also called “scrubs,” “surgical technicians” or “operating room technicians,” assist in surgeries under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses or other surgical personnel. Before an operation, surgical technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment and ensure it’s working properly. Technologists also prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table and cover them with sterile surgical drapes. Surgical technologists also observe patients’ vital signs, check charts and assist the surgical team with putting on sterile gowns and gloves.

Health and Safety Techniques

Health and Safety Techniques is a course that introduces students to such topics as OSHA and taking vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, weight, height, etc.) and teaches and certifies them (American Heart Association Healthcare Provider with AED) in first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), which are usually required within the work environment.

Invasive Cardiovascular Technology

Invasive Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) students use the C-arm and simulation dummy to teach in the laboratory so as to help scrub the cardiologist. Students also simulate passing a guide wire and catheter toward a heart and also infusing balloons and stents. “We feel it is very important for students to observe the skill and then actually practice it prior to working with patient,” stated Instructor Vickie Lemaster, R.T., adding, “At Spencerian College we have some great laboratory rooms with equipment that would actually be used in the hospital setting.” Students also learn the basics of ECG and various arrhythmias. Since CVT’s also monitor the patient during their catheterization, students learn to recognize changes in the patient’s heart rate and rhythm during the procedure.

In the Hematology class students study with actual laboratory slides from local hospitals (minus any personal identifiers with respect to HIPAA laws). Students do a lot of clinical application of the topics in the laboratory each week to reinforce what is in the lecture.

"My students tell you that I have a ‘space bowl’ material to them. I make them restate the answers themselves with guidance from me as needed. Student learn better if they can do it themselves.”

Tina Lewis, M.T.
Medical Department Co-Director

"It’s a big yard!”
Nichelle Thomas and Paul Vogt strike a playful pose.

Are you ok? It’s important to check for responsiveness.
Letitia Franklin, left, and Karl Leard

"I love to teach this class. Having 20 years of experience as an EMT, I can incorporate real life situations that add to the textbook and videos that are used in the classroom. My teaching philosophy is if you are having fun in my classes then you are learning regardless of the subject!”

Wendy Grimes CPC, CCRSMT

"Left to right, front row: Natasha Ross, Brady Cecil, Rosary Baunton, and instructor Sheree Bennett, CST, COA, CPC. Back row: Emma Jahl, Kara Puckett and Shawn Brown.”

Shawn Brown organizes the instrument pan.

"I chose Spencerian because of its good reputation. The lab is really nice and I felt safe in the field and its Surgical Technology program is accredited.”

Dawn Brown

"I really like hematology. It feels like the classes are applicable to my life because it’s challenging.”

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