

# Harper College

## Surgical Technology

### Student Handbook



The Surgical Technology Program at Harper College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). CAAHEP accredits programs upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools grants accreditation to William Rainey Harper College, which awards the Degree in Applied Science for Surgical Technology.

# HARPER COLLEGE



***Harper College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal and equitable access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, material status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.***

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Congratulations on the choice of Surgical Technology as your profession! The faculty and staff of the Harper College Surgical Technology Program welcome you to our program. We share your enthusiasm for learning and providing patient care in a surgical setting. We look forward to working with you as you obtain the education required for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology, with the ultimate goal of obtaining the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) Certification.

We recognize that individuals may have unique and varying needs, capabilities, and experiences. The key to success lies in the recognition by everyone of any learning areas that may need improvement, and in assuming responsibility for strengthening any deficiency. Harper College has numerous resources to assist you including help with such things as study habits, test-taking skills, increasing reading skills, time management. We are committed to helping you reach your educational and life goals.

*“The expert in anything was once a beginner”*

*Helen Hayes*

This program handbook is a supplement to the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook. The purpose of the handbook is to provide information which may not be contained in other publications, and which is specifically related to the Surgical Technology Program. As new policies relating to the Surgical Technology Program are formulated, they will be added to the handbook. *Surgical Technology Handbook revised June 2025.*

## **I. HARPER COLLEGE MISSION AND CORE VALUES**

### **Mission**

Harper College enriches its diverse communities by providing quality, affordable, and accessible education. Harper College, in collaboration with its partners, inspires the transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society.

### **Core Values**

- **INTEGRITY**  
Result: An environment where relationships and practices are based on trust. Key Action: Be responsible and accountable for your own actions.
- **RESPECT**  
Result: Interactions which add dignity to ourselves, our relationships with others and our organization. Key Action: Value and celebrate the uniqueness of individuals.
- **EXCELLENCE**  
Result: Student, employee and organizational success through a creative and responsive work environment by exceeding the needs and expectations of all. Key Action: Effectively anticipate, identify and respond to learner, employee and organizational needs.
- **COLLABORATION**  
Result: Accomplishment of better results by working together than otherwise likely to occur by working alone. Key Action: Address issues as they arise and take necessary actions to productively resolve them.



## **II. PROGRAM INTRODUCTION, MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY**

### **Introduction**

The Surgical Technology Program is a 62-credit career program leading to an Associate in Science degree and Certification in Surgical Technology. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. (CAAHEP)

**Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program**  
**9355 113<sup>th</sup> St. N, #7709**  
**Seminole, FL 33775**

Upon completion of the surgical technology program students are eligible to sit for the surgical technology certification exam through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). The exam is administered on campus during finals week and participation is a graduation requirement. The graduate that successfully passes will have Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Surgical Technology Program is to provide didactic and clinical instruction that will enable individuals to perform as competent, entry-level Surgical Technologists upon program completion. The program seeks to help satisfy the need for Surgical Technologists in local and regional communities. Graduates will assume employment as skilled and conscientious health professionals providing quality patient care in conjunction with other members of the health care team.

### **Philosophy**

All people have dignity and worth. The program will serve people regardless of race, creed, sex, disadvantage, or handicap. We believe that the cognitive base, psychomotor skills, and affective domain are of equal importance in the training of Surgical Technologists, and that graduates of this program should possess competence in the technical phases of Surgical Technology and a sound understanding of the scientific principles of Surgical Technology.

Our graduates should develop the ability to make independent clinical judgments within the limits of the Surgical Technologist's responsibilities, and exhibit strong ethical behaviors and attitudes, as significant members of the health care team.

### **III. PROGRAM GOALS AND LEARNING DOMAINS**

#### **Program Goal, Learning Domains & Program Specific Learning Objectives**

##### Program Goal Statement

The goal of the Harper College Surgical Technology program is to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists, employing highly trained faculty, and state-of-the-art classrooms, equipment, and learning laboratories. Surgical Technology students will achieve program expectations through educational activities in the cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning domains. The Surgical Technology program at Harper College will produce graduates who meet the needs of employers and physicians, while ensuring the safety of the public through competent practice. Graduates will assume employment as skilled and conscientious health professionals providing quality patient care in conjunction with other members of the health care team.

##### Learning Domains

The Harper College Surgical Technology Program recognizes the importance of Bloom's Taxonomy in the development of program specific learning objectives that will allow the student to demonstrate learning acquisition within the three domains of learning, cognitive, psychomotor, and affective. Program specific learning objectives are consistent with the Association for Surgical Technology (AST) Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, 7th Edition.

##### Program Specific Learning Objectives

The student/ graduate will be able to:

#### **COGNITIVE DOMAIN OBJECTIVES**

- A.** Apply the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and pharmacology to the care of the perioperative patient as it relates to the role of the Surgical Technologist.
- B.** Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to attend to the physical, psychological and social needs of the patient.
- C.** Engage in self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for growth consistent with standards of the profession.
- D.** Recognize the value of lifelong learning through continuing education to enhance professional and personal growth to stay current with technological advances in medicine.
- E.** Sit for the National Certification examination offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.

#### **PSYCHMOTOR DOMAIN OBJECTIVES**

The student/graduate will be able to:

- A.** Apply aseptic technique and principles in the intraoperative setting.
- B.** Exhibit safe practice methods involving preparation routines of the intraoperative environment, patient positioning and emergency procedures.



- C. React to breaks in aseptic technique with corrective action.
- D. Actively participate in the scrub role in a variety of procedures in surgical specialty areas according to hospital policy.
- E. Successfully assume the First Scrub role during surgical procedures.
- F. Maintain a grade of 75% or better in all Surgical Technology specific courses in the program.
- G. Maintain a grade of a C or better in all non-Surgical Technology courses
- H. Demonstrate perioperative technical skills and knowledge in a safe and effective manner.

#### **AFFECTIVE DOMAIN OBJECTIVES**

The student/graduate will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate comprehensive ethical, legal, moral and cultural awareness as they relate to the surgical technologist's ability to provide patient care and fosters cooperation and success among members of the surgical team.
- B. Shows the importance of and the ability to model the professional attributes of the Surgical Technologist including the maintenance of a strict 'surgical conscience'.
- C. Demonstrate dependability, honesty and integrity in clinical practice.
- D. Utilize critical thinking when performing the duties of the surgical technologist.
- E. Demonstrate accountability in their practice based on current surgical knowledge.

#### **IV. STUDENT LEARNING AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

##### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Apply and maintain principles of asepsis in the preparation and maintenance of the sterile field to prevent infections.
2. Understand how to implement safety protocols and respond effectively to emergencies in the surgical environment.
3. Identify, handle, and manage surgical instruments and equipment appropriately.
4. Demonstrate the ability to provide compassionate and competent care to patients before, during, and after surgery
5. Recognize the biopsychosocial needs of the surgical patient.
6. Analyze the principles of anesthesia administration and the proper use of medications and solutions within the surgical setting.
7. Exhibit professional behavior, including adherence to ethical standards, legal requirements, and institutional policies.
8. Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to make decisions in complex surgical situations.
9. Identify appropriate pre-, intra and post-operative surgical interventions that include general surgery and specialty surgical procedures
10. Recognize the importance of continuing education and professional development in maintaining competence in the field of surgical technology.

##### **Program Outcomes**

To achieve program goals, the surgical technology faculty utilizes a variety of assessment methods to ensure that the graduates meet the following outcomes.

1. Demonstrate professional and effective communication with members of the surgical team with increasing engagement, increasing intuition, increasing interpretation of verbal and visual clues.
2. Demonstrate entry level surgical judgment following established procedures relying on previous learned information and experiences responding with increasing speed and anticipation while staying calm and focused.
3. Demonstrate a surgical conscience by applying principles of aseptic technique to establish and maintain a sterile field.
4. Demonstrate complete and accurate surgical case preparation based on knowledge gained from anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology, principles in general education courses.
5. Demonstrate continued professional development in being prepared for the profession and providing safe care.
6. Participate in life- long learning and maintaining certification in order to keep pace with changing procedures and technology in surgery.

7. Acquire an understanding of legal, moral, medical values, and ethical concerns related to the surgical patient and surgical team during the perioperative phase of care.
8. Provide safe and professional surgical care that reflects the values and ethics of the program, considers the dignity and biopsychosocial needs of the patient.
9. Graduating students will perform at the national level on the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) Certified Surgical Technologist Examination and will become Certified Surgical Technologists (CST).
10. Maintain an NBSTSA Certification exam pass rate at or above the national mean.
11. Achieve a 90% graduate surgical technology program satisfaction rate.

## V. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND CURRICULA

### Associate in Applied Science A.A.S.

#### *Curriculum Code 0071*

This 62 credit-hour curriculum prepares the student for a career as a Surgical Technologist. Surgical technologists are integral members of the healthcare team, providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings such as operating rooms and outpatient surgical centers. The surgical technologist works directly under the supervision of the surgeon during invasive surgical procedures to ensure that the operating room environment is fully prepared with surgical instruments, properly functioning equipment and environmental conditions that maximize patient safety.

Students will engage in clinical experiences built upon didactic instruction in healthcare sciences, technological sciences, patient care concepts, and surgical procedures. Because of the nature of clinical experiences, individualized instruction, and specialized technology/equipment, this program assesses a higher tuition rate for courses with the SUR prefix. Tuition for these courses is 200 percent of the standard tuition rate.;

Surgical Technology is a limited enrollment program. For admission requirements, please contact the Admissions Outreach Office at 847.925.6700 or visit [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu) Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are obligated to meet current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance to the program.

**PREREQUISITES:** A grade of C or better in all BIO and HSC courses is required.

Credits

BIO160	HUMAN ANATOMY	4
HSC112	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	2

**FIRST SEMESTER:** A grade of C or better is required in all BIO and SUR courses.

BIO161	HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	4
SUR100	ORIENTATION TO THE PROFESSION	1
SUR101	SURGICAL PHARMACOLOGY	2
SUR102	FUNDAMENTALS OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY	4
SUR110	FUNDAMENTALS OF STERILE PROCESSING	3
SUR111	FUNDAMENTALS/STERILE PROCESSING LAB	1

**SECOND SEMESTER:** A grade of C or better is required in all SUR courses.

SUR104	SURGICAL PROCEDURES I	3
SUR103	FUNDAMENTALS OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY LAB	2
SUR106	INTERMEDIATE SURGICAL PROCEDURES	3
ENG101	COMPOSITION	3
Mathematics [AAS General Education] +		3

**SUMMER SESSION:** A grade of C or better is required in all SUR courses.

SUR105	CLINICAL APPLICATIONS I	2
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**THIRD SEMESTER:** A grade of C or better is required in all SUR courses.

SPE101	FUNDAMENTALS OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION	3 5
SUR202	CLINICAL APPLICATIONS II	3
SUR211	COMPLEX SURGICAL PROCEDURES	3
SUR213	SURGICAL PROCEDURES IV	3

**FOURTH SEMESTER:** A grade of C or better is required in all SUR courses.

SUR214	ADVANCED CLINICAL APPLICATIONS	4
SUR215	SURGICAL PROCEDURES V	3
SUR220	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR	1
AAS General Education elective [AAS General Education] +		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>62</b>

## VI. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Academic Support

#### **Success Services for Students:**

Create good study habits early in the semester! Be aware of your academic needs and work to effectively change behaviors to improve academic success. All students are encouraged to visit **Success Services for Students**. Schedule an appointment for one of the following sessions: *Study Skills, Test Taking Tips, Time Management, Memory, Motivation, Test Anxiety, Reading Strategies, Math Strategies, Note taking Skills, Concentration, Study Behavior Inventory, Learning Styles, Test Performance Analysis.*

Visit the website below for more information.

[http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/academics/academic\\_support/success/](http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/academics/academic_support/success/)

### Access and Disability Services

**Access and Disability Services (ADS)** works to provide the highest level of access and services, ensuring all students can equally participate in the great opportunities available at Harper College. Our staff of seasoned professionals actively engages in opportunities to increase access, improve services to students, collaborate with faculty and staff, and coordinate multiple educational and social events throughout the year.

Visit the website below for more information.

<http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/services/ads/>

### Psychological Services:

Compromises to psychological health are often cited by students as being some of the most common barriers to learning and academic success. Psychological Services is here to help. Psychological services include assessment and referral to appropriate on or off campus resources, Psychological services are available to students currently enrolled in six or more creditor ESL hours in fall or spring semesters, or in three or more credit or ESL hours in summer session. However, any student experiencing crisis when on campus is welcome to utilize services.

Visit the website below for more information.

<https://www.harpercollege.edu/services/psy/index.php>

### The Writing Center:

The Writing Center provides several free services which are available to help Harper students succeed. They can work in the open computer lab, consult with tutors on a walk-in basis about their papers in all academic areas, and make appointments with English tutors to discuss specific assignments and develop skills in writing, literacy and critical thinking. Online support for writing assignments is also available.

Stop by Building F, Room 110 or call 847.925.6796 to make an appointment.

### Tutoring Center:

Free tutoring is available in more than 200 courses. This assistance is provided by professional and peer tutors. Students must be enrolled in the course for which they are seeking tutoring. Services that are offered include tutoring by appointment, tutoring on a walk-in basis and review seminars. Study guides are also available for certain courses.

For additional information, stop by the Tutoring Center in Building F, Room 110 or call 847.925.6539.

## **VII. SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM POLICIES AND ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. POLICIES SPECIFIC TO THE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

#### **1.A Essential Abilities for Surgical Technology Students**

Please look carefully at the following essential functions for the operating room. These are physical, mental, and emotional characteristics that are required for employment in the operating room. Only you can decide if this career is right for you. It is better to recognize if a program is a right fit before committing to a career.

##### **Gross Motor Skills**

- Move within confined spaces.
- Maintain balance in multiple positions.
- Reach above shoulders (adjust overhead lights)
- Reach below waist (plug electrical appliance into wall outlet)
- Reach out front.

##### **Fine Motor Skills**

- Perform fine motor skills with both right and left hands.
- Pick up small objects with your hands.
- Write with pen or pencil.
- Key/type (use a computer)
- Pinch/pick/squeeze/ turn with fingers (manipulate an instrument or syringe)
- Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers
- Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand foot.

##### **Physical Strength and Endurance**

- Push and pull 50 pounds (position patient)
- Support and lift 50 pounds of weight (carry instrument trays, hold arm or leg)
- Carry equipment/ supplies (lift instrument pans)
- Use upper body strength (retraction, physically restrain a patient)
- Stand for long periods of time from 2-6 hours.
- Maintain the same position for long periods of time.
- Wear full surgical attire including personal protective equipment for long periods of time.
- Sustained repetitive movements.
- Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours

##### **Hearing**

- Ability to hear normal speaking level sounds.
- Hear faint voices and body sounds (heartbeat)
- Ability to discriminate speech in the presence of background noises.
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips.
- Ability to hear and discriminate various equipment sounds and alarms.

##### **Visual**

- Demonstrate visual acuity (with correction if needed) within normal range.
- See objects up to 20 inches away.
- Use depth perception.
- Use peripheral vision.
- Distinguish color and color intensity (color codes on supplies)



- See in darkened room (during endoscope procedures, eye surgery)
- Ability to read fine print.

#### **Tactile**

- Feel vibrations (palpate pulses)
- Detect temperature (solutions)
- Feel differences in sizes, shapes.
- Detect the environmental temperature.

#### **Communication Skills**

- Speak and write in English.
- Listen/comprehend spoken/written word.
- Collaborate with others (health care workers, peers)
- Comprehend and exhibit non-verbal communication.
- Respond quickly and in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations.

#### **Problem Solving Ability**

- Adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension to ensure patients safety.
- Concentrate and pay attention to detail. Ability to learn quickly without repetition of instructions.
- Demonstrate the ability to read and write at the college level.
- The ability to develop and improve skills in organization of work and in learning to use economy of time and motion.
- Students may be required to be flexible and capable of working in stressful situations while maintaining composure to aid in patient care and to safeguard the life of a patient.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Withstand unusual sights and smells.
- Recognize that the clinical environment will include exposure to diseases and toxic substances (blood borne pathogens, sterilants, ionizing radiation, surgical plume, fumes, development of latex allergy, and so forth).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older to attend a clinical rotation.

A student who has any change in physical and/or psychological condition (including illness, injuries, pregnancy and postpartum period) that requires medical attention and/or affects physical or emotional endurance must have written permission signed by a physician to continue in the Surgical Technology program in the role of a surgical technologist without any restrictions. If a student has a change in any of the functional abilities that will affect them long term or permanently and/or will interfere with their ability to successfully complete the Fundamentals of Surgical Technology lab class or secure a clinical spot they will be withdrawn from the surgical technology program. If you have concerns that you don't meet these standards, please make an appointment with the Program Coordinator.

## **2.A Student Clinical Requirements**

### **Health and Clinical Requirements for Entry into Clinical Experience**

The health requirements are mandated by clinical agencies. The Surgical Technology Program abides by affiliating clinical agencies' regulations for health and clinical requirements. Documentation of completion of health requirements will be maintained in Complio, the immunization and program requirement tracking system. Northwest Community Hospital Immediate Care Center (NCH), located on Harper's campus, can provide these services at a reasonable cost.

**Health requirements include:**

- Physical Exam
- Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola, Varicella IgG, and HepB titers
- QuantiFERON Blood Test
- Yearly flu vaccination Mandatory: Fall: by October 10th, Spring: two weeks prior to the start of the semester.
- Covid 19 vaccination – Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson. No longer required but recommended.
- Health Insurance Verification (Students are responsible for maintaining continuous health insurance while in the Surgical Technology Program.)
- Complete any new clinical agency health requirements as directed.
- Upload documentation into Complio.

#### **Procedures:**

##### *Physical exam*

- A physical exam must be signed and dated by a health care provider within the current year.  
*DPT, Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola, Varicella IgG, Hepatitis B surface antibody titers:*
- Proof of immunity must be documented with a laboratory report.
- Documentation of vaccination administration does not take the place of proof of an acceptable titer.
- If not immune to Varicella, Mumps, Rubella or Rubeola or Hepatitis B the student must start the immunization series before beginning clinical and complete immunizations as identified by their physician or Northwest Community Hospital. Therefore, vaccinations must be initiated in a timely manner to ensure the student is compliant 6 weeks prior to the start of the clinical rotation.

##### *COVID 19 Vaccine*

- Proof of immunity that the students has been vaccinated with the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccine. This vaccine is no longer required but recommended.

##### *Hepatitis B*

- Hepatitis B immunizations are required for those who never had the vaccine or those with a negative titer. The surface antibody titer is required 30 days after the completion of immunization series. If the titer does not indicate immunity, the series will be repeated.

##### *Tuberculosis Testing:*

###### *QuantiFERON TB Gold Blood Test*

- Blood test that aids in the detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria which causes tuberculosis (TB).

##### *Health Insurance Verification*

- Proof of insurance coverage must be uploaded to Complio.
- Proof of insurance consists of a letter of verification of coverage from an employer. It must be on the company letterhead with the current date, student's name, statement that the student has health insurance, name of the insurer, and signature of the company officer.
- If the student has a personal health insurance plan, a letter from the local insurance agent will provide proof.
- Students without health insurance coverage must obtain coverage prior to starting classes. Students are encouraged to obtain coverage through the Health Care Market Place during open enrollment.

- Students on Public Aid must present their public aid card.
- Any changes in insurance coverage must be uploaded to Complio and notification made to the surgical technology program administrator.

#### *Failure to Submit Health Requirements*

- Students newly admitted or returning students in the second year of the program must submit required documents by the predetermined date set by the Program Coordinator.
- Failure to meet the required health requirements prior to the deadline date will result in removal from the registered courses and seat in the Surgical Technology Program.

#### **BLS Provider Course Completion**

All students must complete a Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider Course before starting their clinical rotation. No student will be allowed to participate in clinical practice without verification of a valid BLS Provider Course Completion Card.

##### **Procedure:**

- A copy of the student's valid BLS Provider Course Completion Card must be uploaded into the on-line verification system 7 weeks prior to the start of the clinical rotation.
- Students are required to always maintain current Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider certification once the clinical rotations have begun.
- Students must repeat the course prior to the expiration date printed on the BLS Provider Course Completion Card.
- When the course is repeated, the new card must be uploaded on to Complio.

#### **Drug Screening**

- All students are required to submit to drug screening as a condition of our clinical affiliation agreements.
- Students must pay for the drug screening through Complio.
- Students should not take prescription medications to the lab at the time of testing. Students may be required to provide a list of prescription medications that they are taking.
- Results of the screening will be uploaded directly into Complio. Inconclusive or non-negative results will be given to the Dean of the Health Careers Division. Only the first random screening will be acceptable for this requirement. An inconclusive result may require additional testing at an additional cost to the student.
- A student who tests positive in an Admission Drug Screening conducted under this Procedure for drugs that are illegal substances or are non-prescribed substances that require a prescription for lawful use, or are deemed unsafe for the clinical setting, will be removed from surgical technology courses and may be dismissed from the Surgical Technology Program. Such removal or dismissal is subject to additional testing of the original sample at the student's request and expense, and to academic appeal as set forth in Harper College's Student Code of Conduct and Dispute Resolution Procedures.
- If a student challenges the results of the screening, only the original sample will be tested. The student is responsible for the cost of the retest.
- Students failing to complete the drug screening during the date and time required in the initial notification will be withdrawn from all surgical technology courses due to failure to meet the drug screening requirement.

#### **3A. For Cause Drug Screen**

- If faculty observes a student behaving in a manner that is consistent with the use or misuse of alcohol,

illegal drugs, or drugs which impair judgment, affecting either the classroom, clinical or laboratory setting, the student will be removed from the educational setting and required to submit to drug screen.

- If the behavior is noted in the clinical setting, the student will be removed from patient care and will need to seek transportation from the clinical site.
- If the behavior is noted on campus in either the classroom or laboratory setting Harper College Police Department, will be notified and will transport the student to the contracted agency for drug testing.
- If the results of the urine drug screening are negative the student shall meet with the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of the test results to discuss the circumstances surrounding the impaired behavior. Based on the information provided and further medical evaluation if warranted, the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator will make a decision regarding return to the clinical, classroom and laboratory setting.
- If the drug screen is a positive result, the student will be withdrawn from all surgical technology courses. The student will pay the costs associated with the “for cause” drug screening. Surgical Technology Program personnel may, if they deem it appropriate to do so under the circumstances, file a complaint alleging that the student has violated “*Student Code of Conduct*”, as provided in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.
- If a student refuses a “for cause” testing, the instructor will remove the student from the clinical, classroom or laboratory setting pending an investigation. Surgical Technology Program personnel may, if they deem it appropriate to do so under the circumstances, file a complaint alleging that the student has violated “*Student Code of Conduct*”, as provided in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.
- A student’s failure to comply with any aspect of the “For Cause” Drug Screening Requirement will result in the student’s withdrawal from the Surgical Technology Program without option for readmission.

#### **Readmission following a positive drug screening**

- Students who are withdrawn from surgical technology courses for reasons related to a positive drug screen must submit a letter to the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator requesting readmission to the Surgical Technology Program.
- Applicants must include documentation from a therapist specializing in addiction behaviors indicating status of recovery and /or documented rehabilitation related to the substances used or abused. Documentation must include a statement by the therapist that the applicant will be able to function effectively and provide safe, therapeutic care for clients in the clinical setting.
- If readmitted, the student will be subject to random drug screening and/or to ‘for cause’ drug screening at the student’s expense for the duration of his or her studies in the Surgical Technology Program.
- If readmitted, the student will need to join the next cohort at the junction where they left and that is only if the cohort is not at full capacity.
- If the student has positive results on a drug screening after readmission to the Surgical Technology Program, the student will be dismissed from the Surgical Technology Program with no option for readmission to the program.

#### 4A. Student Safety Requirements

##### Media Lab Safety Videos and Quizzes

Students are required to complete each of the five safety videos and the quiz associated with each video, with a minimum score of 80%. Failure to successfully complete all videos and quizzes by the designated due date will result in a delay in clinical placement.

HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules for All Healthcare Personnel	Required
Infection Prevention and Control for Healthcare Personnel	Required
OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens for Healthcare Personnel	Required
OSHA Hazard Communication and Chemical Hygiene for Healthcare Personnel	Required
Tuberculosis Awareness for Health Care Workers	Required
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Healthcare Workplace	Required
Ethics and Code of Conduct in Healthcare	Required

#### 5.A Student Work Policy

All student activities associated with curriculum, especially while students are completing clinical rotations, will be educational in nature. Students will not be substituted for hired staff personnel within their clinical institution in the capacity of a surgical technologist.



## **VII. B PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND PROGRAM POLICIES**

### **1.B Student Code of Conduct**

As members of the College community, surgical technology students have the rights and responsibilities described in the Harper College Catalog, Student Handbook and Program Handbook, including the 'Student Code of Conduct and Dispute Resolution Procedures,' and should familiarize themselves with these materials.

#### **Procedure:**

- Students are expected to read and review the Harper College Catalog, Student Handbook, "Student Code of Conduct and Dispute Resolution Procedures" and the Program Handbook. This information is located on the Harper College website; [Harper College Student Code of Conduct](#).
- The "Student Code of Conduct" describes possible misconduct that is inconsistent with the essential values of Harper College. It explains the procedures used to resolve allegations that a student has violated the Code of Conduct, and possible sanctions for violations.
- Any violation of the "Student Code of Conduct" is subject to disciplinary action and may lead to dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program.

### **2.B Student Code of Ethics**

In any organization it is important that all members work together for the good of the whole, so the rights and interests of all are assured. In the Surgical Technology program and the hospitals in which you will be working it is especially true. Any failure to work together harmoniously and effectively by maintaining good standards of behavior may affect the well-being of the patients. It is for this reason the following rules of conduct have been established.

Incidents in the educational or clinical setting involving a serious ethics violation will result in immediate dismissal from the program; examples include but are not limited to HIPAA violations, incidents that put the patient at risk such as substance use, incidents of unprofessional behavior in the clinical setting such as dishonesty, disregarding explicit instructions, stealing, and fighting.

Students dismissed on these grounds will not be allowed re admittance to the surgical technology program.

It is your responsibility to know and to follow them. Common sense, good judgment and acceptable personal behavior on your part will make our program and the hospitals that we serve a better place to study and learn. You are accountable for your own actions.

The student will also adhere to the AST Code of Ethics.

### **3.B Association of Surgical Technologists Code of Ethics**

- i. To maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and patient care.
- ii. To hold in confidence, with respect to the patient's beliefs, all personal matters.
- iii. To respect and protect the patient's legal and moral rights to quality patient care.
- iv. To not knowingly cause injury or any injustice to those entrusted to our care.
- v. To work with fellow technologists and other professional health groups to promote harmony and unity for better patient care.
- vi. To always follow the principles of asepsis.
- vii. To maintain a high degree of efficiency through continuing education.
- viii. To maintain and practice surgical technology willingly, with pride and dignity.
- ix. To report any unethical conduct or practice to the proper authority.
- x. To adhere to the code of ethics at all times in relationship to all members of the health care team.



### **4B Classroom, Lab and Clinical Decorum**

Disruptive behaviors, such as talking, laughing or removing themselves from the classroom, lab or assigned clinical operating room, are not acceptable. Students displaying disruptive behaviors may be asked to leave the classroom/laboratory setting. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, professional manner in all areas of the campus.

Course instructors may assign specific seating arrangements for classroom or examination events. Special seating arrangements during exams are designed to provide the most secure and comfortable arrangement for each student. Students must cooperate and follow faculty guidelines. If tables/chairs are rearranged for a classroom activity, they should be returned to their original configuration. A student may tape or film a lecture only with the permission of the faculty member. Use of computers and tablets are based on the discretion of the faculty member. For safety reasons, children are not allowed on campus.

## **5B Attendance, Absence, and Tardiness and Course Participation Policy**

Due to the progressive nature and complexity of the curriculum, professional education requires attendance in classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. A student's attendance is to be regular and punctual in classroom, laboratory and clinical areas. Tardiness and absenteeism reflect a lack of professional responsibility. The services you will be providing are very necessary for optimum and safe care of the patient. Good attendance is a mark of dedication and maturity, which is a component of professionalism that future employers consider seriously. Attendance and participation in all surgical technology classes are expected and are essential to become a competent surgical technologist.

Faculty members are expected to begin and end class at the time listed in the course catalog. However, inclement weather or extraordinary circumstances may influence the start and end times of classes. In poor weather conditions, instructors are expected to adjust accordingly.

### **Course Participation**

Scheduled lab time is your assigned time to develop, practice and refine your technical skills with an instructor present for guidance and feedback. Therefore, attendance is extremely important. Attendance includes arriving on time; therefore, it is expected that students arrive to class, lab, and clinical sites early enough to be prepared and be able to begin the session at the stated start time. Availability, working cooperatively and contributing positively both in and out of class is expected.

Due to the length of some of the courses and labs, breaks will be given. Students are expected to follow the instructor's timeframe for breaks. Students should not leave class until the class session is completed or a break has been given; remaining in class for the entire time is expected. Leaving class early, unless for emergency/personal reasons, is disruptive and strongly discouraged. If foreseeable extenuating circumstances require a student to leave part way through a class, the student should discuss the situation with the instructor in advance and obtain his/her permission. If a student chooses to leave a classroom or laboratory, he/she may not return to take a quiz, examination, or competency evaluation. Attending class for the sole purpose of submitting an assignment may result in a score of "0" for that assignment. Course faculty may also impose other consequences as outlined in their syllabi for inappropriate or disruptive behaviors.

### **Absences**

Absence, including tardiness, will be documented as a violation of professional behavior. Should absence be necessary, or in the event of projected tardiness, students are expected to email their instructor prior to class. Due to the nature of the profession and clinical rotation, absences should be reserved for illness or extenuating circumstances only. They are not to be used for student work schedules, vacations, etc. It is required that students notify the course instructor as early as possible of each absence. When in clinical, the program coordinator, clinical instructor and clinical site must be notified before 6:45 a.m.



- Physician's documentation of illness may be required.
- If a student is absent for more than 3 consecutive days due to a medical illness a doctor's note will be needed to release the student back to class/lab/clinical.
- If a student is absent due to an injury that can impair their thinking, judgement, sensory abilities, mobility or motor capability a doctor's note will be needed to release the student back to lab/clinical. The note needs to include specific language that clears the students to perform the duties of a surgical technologist without any restrictions or limitations.
- Jury Duty: If a student has received a summons or been chosen for jury duty, please provide a copy of notification to serve on jury duty to program coordinator.

Any clinical time missed must be made up. Absence/Tardy classroom/clinical

- 1-29 Minutes = Tardy
- 30 minutes or more = Absent

Students leaving early will be counted absent for the number of hours they miss. If a student needs to leave early prior approval is required. Students need to contact the Program Director prior to leaving the clinical site, failure to do so can be seen as abandonment of their patient care responsibilities. Students must also inform their contact person at the clinical site. If less than 30 minutes, it will count as a tardy. There will also be a 20-point deduction from the student's overall grade for unexcused absences in a clinical rotation and a 50-point deduction from the student's overall grade for a "No Call No Show" in a clinical rotation and may be removed immediately from their clinical rotation and the Surgical Technology Program.

Other attendance requirements are the option and prerogative of the surgical technology faculty. The policy regarding attendance for each course is communicated by the instructor at the first class and documented in the course syllabus.

### **Attendance and Probation**

Attendance probation will be issued when or if a student has unexcused excessive absences. Excessive absences are considered 2 per 8-week courses and 3 per 16-week courses. It may also be issued if a student violates the Professional Conduct policy regarding unexcused absences. Our program relies on our clinical sites for educational experiences and students who violate the attendance policy and are unreliable can put our partnerships in jeopardy. The student will be provided with a written reminder of the attendance/tardy policy. For any absence over, the student will be required to meet with the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator.

### **Make Up Policy**

The first day the student returns to school, they are responsible for contacting each instructor regarding material to be made up. Failure to do so could result in a zero for missed assignments.

### **Classroom:**

Assignments, Quizzes & Exams:

As per the syllabus for each course, there is NO make ups for missed assignments & discussions, unless prior arrangements have been made. If the assignment & discussion has not been completed by the due date, then

the score will be a 0 unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. If the student only completes 1 discussion thread, then only half of the points will be awarded.

- Make-up assignments, exams, quizzes etc. will only be allowed if arrangements to do so are made by the student with the instructor on the first day the student returns to school.
- See individual course syllabus for details on make-up exams.
- Early tests will not be allowed.
- No tests will be made up during class time. Tests may be made up during lunchtime, before/after school upon instructor's approval.

#### **Laboratory:**

- All missed competencies must be completed. Because competencies are sequential and build upon previously learned skills, any missed competency must be made up before the student is permitted to attempt the next competency assessment. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and arrange a time outside of regular lab hours to complete any missed work.

#### **Clinical Rotation:**

- The students may have a chance to make up no more than 2 missed clinical at the end of the clinical rotation. Students will be given half points for assignments turned in during the clinical make-up time. Students will have a total of 20 points deducted from the final grade for every unexcused absence regardless of If the student has made up a clinical and 50 points deducted for a "No Call No Show".

### **6B Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy and Confidentiality**

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a broad law dealing with a variety of issues. The aspect of this law that affects a surgical technology student is that patients have a right to privacy and confidentiality. This is to be respected throughout the Surgical Technology Program. It is illegal to release health information to inappropriate parties or to fail to adequately protect health information from release. Protected Health Information includes the patient's name, address, phone number, email and fax addresses, social security number, driver's license number and other identifying information, in addition to information about the patient's diagnosis and condition.

Because this is a law, there are civil and criminal consequences if privacy laws are breached. Violation of HIPAA can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program. Therefore, under no circumstances should a student ever release or remove confidential patient information outside of the hospital or discuss it with anyone unless it is needed for the treatment of the patient.

In the role of a surgical technology student and a patient advocate, there is access to patient information therefore:

- Students are not allowed to make copies of any part of the patient records; this includes surgery schedules and surgeon preference cards where the patient's name and information is included. Only handwritten notes with no identifying information will be allowed to be removed from the facility.
- When it is necessary to share confidential information, do so only with the people involved in patient care.

- Do not discuss patients or patient-related information in corridors, elevators, the cafeteria, waiting rooms, lounges, or any other area where conversations may be overheard.
- Any information learned through the course of activities at the hospital is not to be repeated to anyone. This includes friends, relatives, and/or relatives of patients or employees. Information is not communicated from one institution to another without the consent of the patient.
- If a student learns of the hospitalization of a friend or relative, this information cannot be discussed, unless it came from an outside source or with permission of the patient in the hospital.
- If a student acquires information about a friend or relative during clinical practice, that information is also considered confidential. This also applies to individuals known to a student who may be seen in corridors, elevators, or other areas of the healthcare setting.
- Recording: Confidentiality also applies in the classroom setting. No recording is allowed in the classroom except under the direction of student services or with the permission of the surgical technology faculty.
- No pictures should be taken of patients on personal devices to share via social media, text or e-mail, even if the purpose is for academic reasons for this reason cellphones MUST remain in a student's locker or car during clinical rotations. Having your cell phone on your person in the operating room may result in the dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program. Taking photos of patients will result in immediate dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program.
- The student needs to refrain from discussing any aspect of their clinical experience on their social media accounts.
- VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

## **7B Personal Appearance and Hygiene**

As a Surgical Technology student, you represent your school, classmates, and Surgical Technology as a profession to the public, patients and their visitors. Your conduct, dress, and appearance are important. Cleanliness and neatness are necessary because of the nature of your work.

The following requirements have been established:

- Good personal hygiene-includes personal cleanliness, use of effective deodorant and good oral hygiene however please refrain from strong scented body sprays and lotions, these may affect patients and staff.
- Hair must be clean, simply styled and well groomed.
- In all areas of personal appearance, the student is to judge his/her own dress.
- If there is a problem related to this area, the instructors will advise the student of any problem with the personal appearance as it relates to professional patient care.
- Should the issue not be resolved by informal discussion, the issue will be addressed formally by the program director.
- Disciplinary action may be a result of failing to meet and maintain the above standards.

## **8B Non-Smoking Policy**

Smoking is not permitted during a patient care assignment. With the possible health risks of allergies, smoke

odors may pose a risk to some patients' safety. Also, it is highly desirable that healthcare professionals demonstrate healthy lifestyle choices to peers, professional colleagues, and patients.

- Students are required to take action to eliminate smoking odors prior to clinical. It is recommended that students not smoke during their clinical care assignment. This includes breaks and/or lunch breaks. Other methods for reducing the odor of smoke should be identified by the student to address this requirement.
- Refer to "Smoking Policy" in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook. Harper College is a no smoking campus.

## **VII C. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **1C. Academic Honesty**

The surgical technology faculty and administration expect that students enrolled in courses at Harper College always comply with the ethical standards of academic honesty.

- Students are expected to do their own original work, except when the surgical technology faculty directs collaboration on assignments. The use of artificial intelligence is prohibited.
- Students who commit any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary measures including failure of the assignment, project, or test, failure of the course and/or dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program.
- Falsifying clinical documentation information (providing untrue information or forging a preceptor/clinical instructor's signature) – is grounds for immediate dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program
- Refer to the "Student Code of Conduct and Dispute Resolution Procedures" in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.

### **2C. Course Requirements**

Students enrolled in the Surgical Technology Program are expected to attend regularly and punctually for classes in which they are enrolled. Excessive absences may affect the quality of a student's academic achievement and the attainment of the program objectives and can lead to a failing grade. All students are required to maintain a satisfactory grade of "C" in all surgical technology courses, pre-requisites, and non-surgical technology courses.

- Students accepted for admission into the Surgical Technology Program and not yet matriculated are expected to maintain the Surgical Technology Program requirement of a "C" grade in all course work for the degree.
- A final course grade of "D" or "F" in any Surgical Technology specific courses precludes continuing in the Surgical Technology Program or graduation from the Surgical Technology Program. Students will be withdrawn from the program in this situation.
- If a student receives a grade of "D" or "F" in any of their General Education classes, they will need to retake them and receive a grade of "C" or better prior to graduation to successfully complete the program and be eligible to sit for the NBSTSA Certification exam.
- BIO 261 Human Physiology must be completed with a "C" or better within the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the program.
- Students who have been accepted into the Surgical Technology Program and have completed BIO260 Human Anatomy or BIO261 Human Physiology more than seven (7) years prior to beginning of the program must repeat the course(s) and obtain a grade of "C" or better.
  - If a student exceeds the 7-year mark for successful completion of BIO 260 and BIO 261 and is working in healthcare in a clinical setting, the Program Director reserves the right to waive the 7-year requirement. This will be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- Students who have been accepted into the Surgical Technology Program and are working sterile processing technicians and hold a current Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) CRCST

or Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) certification are eligible for prior learning for courses SUR110 – Fundamentals of Sterile Processing and SUR111 Fundamentals of Sterile Processing - Lab

### **3C. Course Sequence**

Courses in the surgical technology curriculum are sequential. Coursework in the surgical technology curriculum is presented in a special sequence and the knowledge and skills are cumulative. It is necessary to complete each course in a sequence before advancing to the next level.

Students must complete each course in the surgical technology curriculum with a performance level of “C” or better to continue in the program sequence, e.g., to advance through the curriculum.

It is the student’s responsibility to track their academic progress in relation to the graduation requirements for the Associate Degree in Applied Science Surgical Technology degree.

### **4C. Course Grade Standard**

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory performance in all surgical technology courses. The surgical technology faculty establishes and approves procedures for calculation and reporting of final course grades. An honors grading scale is utilized in all “SUR” courses. The honors grading scale follows a more rigorous standard compared to the regular grading scale. It emphasizes high academic achievement and competency due to the critical nature of the Surgical Technology/Sterile Processing and Distribution professions.

- Grading Scale:      A = 92% - 100%  
                              B = 83% - 91%  
                              C = 75% - 82%  
                              D = 66% - 74%  
                              F = <65%
- A grade of “C” or better is required in each surgical technology course to move on to the next class in the course sequence.
- A final course grade of “D” or “F” in any surgical technology course precludes continuance in the program or graduation from the Surgical Technology Program.
- Exam grades and semester averages will be recorded in whole numbers. All decimals will be dropped. There will be no rounding of the percentage. For example, 83.6 = 83 and 83.2 = 83.
- Students must achieve an average score of 75% or higher on all written examinations (unit quizzes, chapter exams, midterm, final) to pass each didactic course.

### **5C. Standards for Written Course Assignments**

The Harper College Surgical Technology Program has adopted and endorses specific requirements for written assignments. All written assignments must be submitted meeting these requirements and standards of a professional presentation.

Written assignments must be presented in a professional manner utilizing a format appropriate to written assignment as identified by the faculty.

- All written assignments shall be submitted utilizing the American Psychological Association (APA) format.
- Seek additional assistance from:
  - Academic Support Center, Building D, Room D202, 847.925.6796 or 6539
  - Citing Print Sources on the Harper College Library's website
  - [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
  - Purdue On-Line Writing Lab (Owl) <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

## 6C. Criteria for Laboratory Performance

### Competency Testing of Surgical Technology Laboratory Clinical Skills

All students are required to participate and successfully pass competency testing of surgical technology clinical skills throughout the Surgical Technology Program as identified in the surgical technology courses. The student must demonstrate the surgical technology skill safely and competency to be evaluated as satisfactory by the surgical technology faculty BEFORE they begin their clinical rotation.

- The return demonstration of the surgical technology skill is evaluated on a point scale. Students will have three attempts to successfully complete a return demonstration.
- The student who is evaluated as unsatisfactory after the 3rd attempt will be permitted to remediate and only retest one time.
- The student will be given an Action Plan.
- Remediation in the surgical technology laboratory is by appointment.
  - Remediation must be completed prior to the retest.
  - **The remediation must be completed within 1 week or less of the original failed attempt.**
- At the retest, the student must successfully demonstrate the original surgical technology skill. The retest may be recorded.
- Once a competency has been completed and graded, your lab instructor still reserves the right to retest if that specific skill falls below excellent/pass.
  - If a student successfully passes a competency but subsequently demonstrates difficulty with the skill, it may hinder the development of new skills. In such cases, the instructor reserves the right to remediation if the student's performance begins to fall below the program's expected level of proficiency.
  - If the student is still unable to obtain the skill after 3 attempts, they will not continue with lab course SUR103 and will be withdrawn from the Surgical Technology Program.
- If a student competently performs a surgical technology skill in the lab but cannot perform that same procedure successfully in the clinical setting, the student will be given an Action Plan and will need to complete lab remediation prior to returning to clinical.
  - If the student is once again unsuccessful in their attempts at the clinical site, depending on the skill, they will be dismissed from the program.
- Skills Competency Testing must be successfully completed before the clinical rotation begins—refer to the course syllabus.

## 7C. Criteria for Clinical Performance

The Surgical Technology Program has the responsibility to provide learning experiences for students that support successful completion of the program. In addressing this goal, it is the responsibility of the faculty to guarantee that students who are assigned with the care of any patient are consistently prepared to

deliver safe, quality care. It is the responsibility of the faculty to evaluate students' performance throughout the program to meet this requirement.

Student clinical and surgical technology laboratory performance evaluation will include assessment of the following:

- application of theoretical knowledge in providing patient surgical care
- practice of surgical technology skills and abilities in the delivery of safe patient surgical care
- demonstration of professional behavior that is consistent with and follows the Code of Ethics and professional standards.

Harper College enters into clinical affiliation agreements with various health care provider entities to secure clinical practicum opportunities for Surgical Technology Program students in hospitals and other health care settings. These entities require that students placed for training in their facilities adhere to applicable workplace rules and procedures, and customarily reserve the right to remove a student who violates those rules from the placement. Such removal may effectively terminate the student's participation in the practicum course.

Surgical Technology Students should be aware that in the event such a situation arises, Harper College may be consulted but does not control the health care entity's investigation or decision-making process which may lead to the student's exclusion from the clinical practicum site. In the event of such exclusion, Harper may but is not obliged to and typically cannot secure another practicum placement during the course period for the student who has been excluded, to enable the student to successfully complete the practicum course on schedule.

- Both theory and clinical performance at the completion of each surgical technology course sequence, co-requisite courses, must be satisfactory for the student to progress to the next course/level of program of study or graduate from the program.
- The student is provided with oral and written feedback via several clinical evaluation tools throughout the clinical experience via clinical preceptors and clinical instructors.
- Students are required to complete and upload into Blackboard a Surgical Case Log weekly that documents the surgical cases that they have participated in as outlined in the course syllabus. This document is used to record the number and type of case that they have completed as well as documenting their role in the surgical procedure. This log must be documented correctly following the example in the Blackboard course shell.
- Students are required to provide their surgical preceptors with an evaluation form each clinical day and must submit one completed evaluation per day. Completed evaluations must be uploaded to Blackboard on a weekly basis as outlined in the course syllabus.
- Students are also required to fill out a Clinical Case Information assignment as assigned for 1 case that they have scrubbed in that time frame and submit it via Blackboard as outlined in the course syllabus.
- The student's clinical performance is rated as a letter grade of "C" or higher is "satisfactory" or a grade of "D" or "F" is "unsatisfactory." Students must achieve an overall grade of "C" or greater.
- Unsatisfactory clinical performance during enrollment in the clinical course may lead to probationary status or dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program and is based on identification of failure in *one or more of the following criteria*:
  - Clinical performance that does not meet professional standards of conduct. Unprofessional conduct is defined as any action inconsistent with the Association of Surgical Technologist's



Code of Ethics, Requirements of the Surgical Technology Program, or the policies of Harper College and the clinical agencies.

- A student whose clinical performance is evaluated as being unable to meet the criteria established for competence throughout the surgical technology course.
- Non-compliance with requirements of the Surgical Technology Program.
- Academic dishonesty, unethical behavior, and/or violation of confidentiality.
- Excessive unexcused absences or tardies from the clinical rotation.
- A student who has been evaluated as unsafe may not continue in a clinical surgical technology course and will be withdrawn from the Surgical Technology Program.

### **8C. Communication during Scheduled Classes, Clinical Practice and Surgical Laboratory**

During instructional time (classroom, clinical, and laboratory), the priority focus is learning and student success. To effectively meet this goal, guidelines will be implemented to support all learners and provide for mutual respect between learners and faculty members.

- Hospitals and Community-based agencies will not process personal in-coming calls for students.
- In cases of emergency, calls should be made to the Health Careers Division office at 847.925.6533. The Student Support Secretary will notify the program coordinator who will then notify the clinical site.
- Emergency calls to students who are on campus should be made to the Harper College Police Department at 847.925.6330.

#### **Cell phone policy**

- During classes and labs cell phones are not to be out unless the instructor has allowed them. If a student is texting or using the cell phone without permission the student may be asked to leave the classroom, or lab and marked absent.
- During testing, cell phones are not to be on the student's person and need to be turned off.
- During clinical practice, cell phones need to be left in the locker room or students' car. There are to be **NO CELL PHONES** taken into an operating room, the surrounding corridors or in areas where patients or patient information is located. A violation of this rule can lead to dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program.
- Students who inappropriately use communication devices during class or clinical will be considered in violation of professional standards of conduct.

### **9C. Contacting Faculty**

Faculty members are aware that students may need to contact them outside regular classroom and clinical hours, and faculty are willing to accommodate those requests. However, faculty responsibilities outside the college may not allow for an immediate response to students' questions.

- Faculty will post information on how to be contacted, and the expected response time. This will be available on the course syllabus.
- All communication with program faculty and clinical sites needs to be conducted in a professional manner. Refrain from using slang or unprofessional language in all communications.

### **10C. Past Due Assignments**

All students are expected to complete and submit required assignments consistent with deadlines as identified

in the course syllabus set by the surgical technology faculty. As per the syllabus for each course, there are NO make ups for missed assignments & discussions, unless prior arrangements have been made. If the assignment & discussion has not been completed by the due date then the score will be a 0, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **11C. Incomplete Grades**

A student may be granted a temporary grade of “Incomplete” for unfinished surgical technology course requirements in the time allotted because of circumstances beyond the student’s control. This is determined at the discretion of the Program Coordinator and will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

- Refer to the “Incomplete Grades” policy in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook. This information is found on the Harper College website.

### **12C. Attendance**

Sporadic attendance can and will affect a student’s grade and overall academic success. See policy 5B.

### **13C. Special Accommodations**

Resources and services are available to assist students with disabilities at Harper College. While surgical technology faculty recognizes the importance of supporting students with disabilities, it is the student’s responsibility to self-identify.

- It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Access and Disability Office. Refer to the “Access and Disability Services (ADS)” guidelines in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.
- Students who would benefit from such services are encouraged to contact Access and Disability Services (847-925-6266) at the college as soon as they arrive on the campus or when the need for such services arises.
- Upon disclosure of the student’s needs, the surgical technology faculty will provide the accommodation recommended by this service within reason provided they are in line with the functional abilities needed for program entry.
- The student is required to provide the surgical technology faculty with the appropriate documentation for special accommodation.
- This information will be shared with appropriate surgical technology faculty to ensure an efficient response to the identified student need.

### **14C. Academic Retention, Failures and Withdrawals**

If a student is at risk of receiving a “D” or “F” in a class, the instructor will reach out to the student and apprise them of their academic standing. Upon receiving notification from the instructor of concerns regarding academic progress, students are expected to arrange a meeting with the instructor and discuss an improvement plan.

Students who fail any SUR course in the surgical technology curriculum will be automatically dismissed from the program.

Students should withdraw from the surgical technology courses and/or the program only when the

probability of attaining a passing grade of “C” is doubtful. The final day for withdrawal is posted on the Harper College website and in each course syllabus distributed to students at the beginning of each semester. Students should discuss the possibility of withdrawal with their course instructor and then with the program coordinator before making a final decision.

Those on financial assistance should also consult with the Office of Student Financial Assistance to determine the effect of withdrawal on that aid before withdrawal. Failure to consult with the Financial Aid office could be very costly to the student.

- Dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program is based on any of the established performance criteria as follows:
  - Failure of any SUR prefixed Surgical Technology courses.
  - Clinical performance that constitutes unsafe practice that endangers the safety or well-being of the patient, student, or any member of the surgical team. Unsafe practice is defined as any surgical technology action inconsistent with Association of Surgical Technologist’s Code of Ethics, Requirements of the Surgical Technology Program, or policies of the clinical agencies.
  - Non-compliance with requirements of the Surgical Technology Program as provided for in the Surgical Technology Student Handbook.
  - Academic dishonesty, unethical behavior, and/or violation of confidentiality.
  - A confirmed positive drug test and failure to provide documentation from a healthcare provider.
  - A confirmed blood alcohol level of any amount.
- Upon dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program:
  - The clinical instructor will notify the student of unprofessional conduct or unsafe practice. The student will not be permitted to continue in clinical.
  - The instructor will notify the student of the grade.
  - Fourth semester failures will be evaluated on an individual basis.
  - The student may follow the Student Academic Complaint policy located in the Harper College Catalog Student Handbook.

### **15C. Re-Admission to the Surgical Technology Program**

All students enrolled in the Surgical Technology Program are required to maintain a satisfactory grade of “C” in all surgical technology and required cognates for completion of the associate degree in applied science degree in Surgical Technology. Failure to achieve a grade of “C” in all Surgical Technology specific course work will result in dismissal from the Surgical Technology Program. Any course repetition will need to be completed in the following program cohort at the junction where said student left off but only if there is an available spot in that cohort.

- A student who receives a grade below a “C” in any surgical technology course, has a medical withdrawal or class withdrawal due to extenuating circumstances must repeat the entire course in the next cohort pending enrollment space.
  - If a student has failed the 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> clinical rotation and returns to the program the following year, they will need to retake SUR103 due to the time lapse and diminishment of clinical skills.
  - If a student voluntarily withdraws from a class and is dismissed from the program, they will need to seek approval from the Program Coordinator to petition to rejoin the following cohort where they left off. Approval will be judged on a case-by-case basis. Overall grades, attendance and

classroom behavior may be used to decide student re-admission.

- Students with medical withdrawals and withdrawals due to extenuating circumstances may be given priority for re-admission over students who failed a class or voluntarily withdrew. These will be judged on a case-by-case basis. Overall grades, attendance and classroom behavior may be used to decide student priority.
- A student who is returning after a failed grade or medical withdrawal must successfully complete a proficiency exam prior to reentry.
- If a student fails, withdraws due to medical issues or extenuating circumstances, SUR 214 – Advanced Clinical Applications, every effort will be made to allow the student to finish their clinical rotation in the summer session. This will be judged on a case-by-case basis and only if there is space available for the student in the summer session.
- A student who does not successfully pass a course that has a co-requisite of either theory or clinical may be required to repeat both courses as determined by faculty in the next cohort pending enrollment space.
- Immediate continuation in the Surgical Technology Program is dependent upon seat availability in the following cohort.
- All students must complete the Surgical Technology Program within a 2-cohort period. This applies to students who take a leave of absence or must repeat a surgical technology course. Students who are unable to complete the program within this time frame will not be permitted to continue in the program and must apply as a “new admit”.
- Second admission requests are evaluated by the surgical technology faculty on a case-by-case basis and there is no guarantee of readmission.
- **Two admissions are the maximum permitted.**
- The student may appeal the decision by following “Academic Complaint” as outlined in the “Student Code of Conduct”, in the Harper College Handbook/Catalog.

<http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/services/conduct/students/complaint.php>

## 16C. Graduation Requirements

All requirements for graduation from the Surgical Technology Program are described in the “Graduation Requirements” in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.

- It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that all the requirements have been met or will have been met before completion of the Surgical Technology Program.
- Students must apply for graduation in the timeframe laid out by Harper College.
- If the student has attended another college(s), it is the student’s responsibility to request a transcript evaluation.
- The transcript evaluation determines if the equivalent course(s) will fulfill the required courses for the Surgical Technology Program. Refer to the “Transfer of Credit to Harper College” in the Harper College Catalog and Student Handbook.
- The students must have completed a minimum number of 120 surgical cases during their clinical practicum in the categories needed as outlined by ARC-STSA. **See 5D.**
- The students must pass all course work with a grade of “C” or better
- The student must sit with their class to take the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) National Certification Exam on the scheduled date prior to graduation.

## **VIII. CLINICAL ROTATION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Clinical Rotation Goals**

The learner will demonstrate clinical proficiency to employment-acceptable level in general surgical procedures and commonly performed specialty procedures. (The learner is not expected to be clinically proficient in the more complex procedures). Emphasis will be on the first scrub role; however, the learner will have experience with the circulating role and the second assistant role.

### **2. Objectives and Roles for Clinical Rotation**

- Use and spell medical terminology correctly.
- Demonstrate knowledge of body organization and terms of reference.
- Demonstrate the required pre-, intra-, and postoperative routines, i.e. chart review; patient identification; patient transportation; surgical positioning; operative site preparation; handling, labeling, and containment of specimens; use of thermoregulatory devices; vital sign measurement and recording; case documentation; etc.
- Apply the concepts of asepsis, i.e. sterilization, disinfection, antisepsis.
- Identify, care for, handle, and assemble basic surgical instruments, surgical supplies, suture materials, stapling devices, surgical needles, accessory and specialty equipment.
- Understand correct draping procedures.
- Demonstrate techniques for opening and preparing supplies and instruments needed for any operative procedure, with maintenance of asepsis at all times.
- Demonstrate knowledge of relevant anatomy, indications for surgery, patient preparation, special equipment and supplies, purpose and expected outcomes, and possible complications for the selected procedures.
- Practice within the legal and ethical guidelines for the surgical technologist.
- Demonstrate ability to anticipate the needs of the surgeon and surgical team

#### **First Scrub Role**

The student technologist shall perform the following duties during any given surgical procedure with proficiency. The following list is provided to identify the items that must be completed in order to document a case in the first scrub role. A student not meeting the five criteria below cannot count the case in the first scrub role and the case must be documented in the second scrub role or observation role.

- Verify supplies and equipment needed for the surgical procedure.
- Setup the sterile field with instruments, supplies, equipment, medications and solutions needed for the procedure.
- Perform counts with the circulator prior to the procedure and before the incision is closed.
- Pass instruments and supplies to the surgical team members during the procedure.
- Maintain sterile technique as measured by recognized breaks in technique and demonstrate knowledge of how to correct with appropriate technique.

### **Second Scrub Role**

The second scrub role is defined as the student who is at the sterile field who has not met all criteria for the first scrub role, but actively participates in the surgical procedure in its entirety by completing any of the following:

- Sponging
- Suctioning
- Cutting suture
- Holding retractors
- Manipulating endoscopic cameras

### **Observation Role**

The observation role is defined as the student who is in the operating room performing roles that do not meet the criteria for the first or second scrub role. These observation cases are not to be included in the required case count but must be documented by the program.

- Observations do not count towards the total counted cases but must be documented on the case log.

## **3. Teaching Method**

Supervised work experience accompanied by a preceptor in operating rooms.

## **4. Evaluation Methods**

Demonstrated proficiency to an employment-acceptable level in general surgical procedures and commonly performed specialty procedures as identified by clinical competencies and clinical instructor evaluation.

## **5. Clinical Requirements for Graduation**

Students must complete a minimum of 120 cases to graduate as set forth by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

### **Procedure:**

#### **A. General Surgery Cases**

- Students must complete a minimum of 30 cases in General Surgery; 20 which must be performed in the First Scrub Role. The remaining 10 cases may be performed in either the First or Second Scrub Role.

#### **B. Specialty Cases**

- Students must complete a minimum of 90 cases in various surgical specialties, excluding General Surgery; 60 which must be performed in the First Scrub Role. The additional 30 cases may be performed in either the First or Second Scrub Role.
  - A minimum of 60 surgical specialty cases must be performed in the First Scrub Role and

distributed amongst a minimum of four surgical specialties.

- (1) A minimum of 10 cases in the First Scrub Role must be completed in each of the required minimum of four surgical specialties (40 cases total required).
- (2) The additional 20 cases in the First Scrub Role may be distributed amongst any one surgical specialty or multiple surgical specialties.
- The remaining 30 surgical specialty cases may be performed in any surgical specialty either in the First or Second Scrub Role.

### **C. Optional surgical specialties**

- Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory. However, up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases and 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted toward the maximum number of Second Scrub Role cases.
  - Diagnostic endoscopy cases must be documented in the category of "Diagnostic Endoscopy", rather than by specialty.
  - Vaginal delivery cases must be documented in the category of "Labor & Delivery" rather than in the OB/GYN specialty.
  - Case experience in the Second Scrub Role is not mandatory.
  - Observation cases must be documented, but do not count towards the 120 required cases.
  - Counting cases
- Cases will be counted and documented according to surgical specialty.
- Examples of counting cases
  - A trauma patient require a splenectomy and repair of a Lefort I fracture. Two cases can be counted and documented since splenectomy is general surgery specialty and repair of LeFort I is oral-maxillofacial surgical specialty.
- Patient requires a breast biopsy followed by mastectomy. It is one pathology, breast cancer, and the specialty is general surgery; therefore, it is counted and documented as one procedure - one case.
- Endoscopic cases that convert to an open case (e.g.: Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy converted to an Open Cholecystectomy) are counted and documented as one (I) procedure--one case

## **6. Surgical Rotation Guidelines**

The following are the guidelines for Harper College, instructors, preceptors at the various clinical rotation sites, and students of the program.

- The student will not have input in the clinical site that they are assigned to.
- The student must be compliant with all clinical and health requirements before being assigned a clinical site.
- Surgical rotation will be graded utilizing a point scale and letter grade. Students need to receive a "C" or better to continue in the Surgical Technology Program.
- The student will provide their surgical preceptors with an evaluation form and must submit at least 1 completed evaluation per clinical day into Blackboard per week. The reports will

become a permanent part of the student's file. Reports are another means of evaluating the student's performance. The report will list the strengths of the students as well as recommendations for areas of improvement.

- On a midterm basis, except for the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation, a formal assessment documented by the clinical instructor or site personnel will be conducted with the student by the chair of the surgical technology department. Information, observation, and analysis about the student's performance will be discussed. The student will be told if performance is satisfactory/unsatisfactory. If unsatisfactory, the factors warranting the unsatisfactory will be discussed and exactly what the student needs to improve to pass. The student will know, after the midterm formal assessment, exactly what their status is concerning surgical rotation and what areas need improving.
- The program director will coordinate with the surgical department manager/supervisor the scheduling of students and number of students the department will train at a time.
- The student must complete a minimum of 120 surgical procedures following the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC-STSA) guidelines in the first scrub/second role to graduate.
- The student will be required to keep a log of the number of surgical procedures they have completed. The forms used by the student in keeping the log are discussed later in this document.
- The student is to be changed into scrubs and ready to work at 6:45 a.m. or reporting time as established by the surgical department. This does not mean reporting at 6:45 a.m. and then changing into scrubs. It means reporting to your preceptor and/or assigned surgery room at 6:45 a.m.
- The students must report to the operating room they are assigned to by the hospital personnel and are not allowed to physically relocate themselves from their assigned room.
- Students cannot refuse assignments that are within their scope of practice and skill level for the rotation that they are in.
- The student will be responsible for making up missed clinical days. Please see #7D for further explanation
- All clinical rotation documents become a permanent part of the student's file.
- The student must share the responsibility in completing the rotation to satisfy the 120 minimum surgical procedure requirements.

## **7. Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory to fulfill the clinical case requirements set for by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC-STSA). The clinical case requirements are approved by ARC-STSA and are part of the guidelines for accreditation of this program. Clinical hours missed will be made up within the semester pending the clinical site's availability. See 5B for Program Attendance Policy.

## **8. Reporting Late for Surgical Clinical Rotation**

Attendance and punctuality are required for a successful clinical rotation. If a student is absent or tardy for a clinical the following steps should be taken.

- Each day of rotation missed by the student is required to be made up. Surgical rotation means



100% attendance. The student will establish with the clinical instructor or program director of the Surgical Technology Department a schedule for completing make-up clinical days.

- If the student will be absent, they are required to contact the following individuals in the order listed and follow the instructions listed below:
  - clinical instructor via the Remind App
  - course instructor or program director of the Surgical Technology Department via the Remind App
  - the healthcare facility where the student is completing their clinical rotation.
- If the student is going to be 10 minutes late or more reporting for rotation, they are required to call the same individuals as stated above in #2 and in the same order.
- In the event of an emergency students need to contact the clinical instructor or Program Coordinator/course instructor at the earliest moment
- Students may not leave the clinical facility during the clinical time without first obtaining permission from the clinical instructor or Program Coordinator/course instructor.
  - Students need to let the OR charge nurse and their site's contact person know that they have been granted permission to leave early or that they need to leave due to an emergency.
  - Should a student leave without notifying the above personnel, that can be seen as abandonment of a patient and can result in program dismissal.

## **9. Transportation**

Transportation to and from Harper College and clinical agencies is the individual student's responsibility. Students will be expected to provide their own transportation to the facility providing the opportunity for the student to complete surgical rotation. Harper College and the Surgical Technology Department are not liable for any accidents during the off campus surgical rotation.

## **10. Student Surgical Case Log**

As written in "Surgical Rotation Guidelines" the student is required to keep a case log of the surgical procedures they have first scrubbed, observed, or circulated. The journal includes the documents Surgical Procedure Experience Record and Clinical Case Information

- The student will complete the Surgical Case Log to keep track of the type and number of cases first scrubbed, second scrubbed and observed. This document needs to be filled out correctly in its entirety and submitted into Blackboard weekly. There is an example within the course Blackboard shell that students need to follow. Students are provided an Excel spreadsheet that will allow them to upload their case numbers, their role in a procedure and track their progress.
- Directions for completing and sharing the Surgical Case Log will be explained before the student goes out on their first clinical rotation and an example is provided in the Blackboard course shell.
- The other portion of the log is the Clinical Case Information assignment. Additional information concerning this document can also be found on Blackboard.

## **11. Student Withdrawals – Clinical Rotation/Surgical Technology Program**

The following circumstances will result in the automatic withdrawal of the student from the clinical rotation and the surgical technology program. The student may be banned on a lifetime basis for readmission into the Harper College Surgical Technology Program.

The circumstances for permanent withdrawal from the program include, but not limited to:

- A student's behavior and/or performance are disruptive and hazardous to themselves, the patient, or other healthcare providers.
- A student does not meet the functional abilities.
- Violation of patient confidentiality
- A student misses more than three days of surgical rotation per semester
- Sexual harassment of a Harper College student, peer, preceptor, surgical team member, hospital staff member or hospital patient.
- Violating policy/policies set forth by Harper College, the Surgical Technology program or clinical site while on probation.

The following circumstances may negate withdrawal, and lead to a student receiving approval for a leave of absence:

- Death of a spouse, child, or parent of a student that is verifiable.
- Verifiable incapacity, illness, or injury prevents the student from returning to school for a specified period of time.

## **12. Surgical Rotation Probationary Status**

The following circumstances will result in the student being placed on probationary status during surgical rotation and repeated behavior will result in withdrawal:

- Failure to progress within surgical rotation.
- Excessive unexcused absences or tardiness
- Unprofessional behavior that is a distraction for the surgical team/staff. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - Not accepting or ignoring constructive criticism.
  - Dismissing the advice of their preceptors.
  - Physically relocating oneself from their assigned room or ignoring/changing their assignments.
  - Refusing to accept an assignment that is within the scope of practice and current ability.
  - Any unprofessional behavior that could result in the loss of a clinical site.

## **13. Injury/Exposure During Surgical Clinical Rotation**

The student must follow this policy and procedure if they sustain a sharps injury, such as a needle stick or cut by the surgical knife blade, during surgical rotation. This also pertains to exposure to blood, bodily fluids or caustic chemicals contacting the mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose or in the

mouth. This does not pertain to an injury sustained in the lab.

- The student is to report the incident to the charge nurse or Operating Room Educator and follow the hospital or surgical facilities guidelines.
- The student must seek medical care at the clinical site if the injury requires medical attention such as stitches or if the injury occurred from a contaminated object such as: scalpel, hypodermic needle, suture needle etc.
- The student must also seek medical care if there is exposure to blood, bodily fluids or caustic chemicals to the eyes, nose, or mouth.
- The student is to fill out an “Injury Reporting Form” that can be found under “Course Materials” in the Blackboard Course Shell for SUR 105, SUR202, and SUR 204, and give a copy to the program director of the Surgical Technology Department. This report should include a written or typed description of the occurrence, the date and approximate time of the incident, hospital name, witnesses (if any), brief description of the incident. The program director will type a formal report based on the information to be included in the student’s surgical technology file and a copy will be given to the student.
- The student will need to use their personal health insurance should they need to seek medical attention while at a clinical site and is responsible for costs incurred.
- The student needs to follow up with their personal physician, if applicable.

#### **14. Surgical Technology Student Uniform Requirements**

The surgical technology student is required to present in a professional manner in the clinical setting. Uniform requirements are adopted by the Surgical Technology Program and students are expected to adhere to them.

- Students will be required to wear surgical scrubs that are provided by the clinical site. They are to be discarded in a manner set up by the clinical site. They are NOT to be taken or worn home.
- If scrubs become soiled during a clinical shift, they should be changed at the students’ earliest opportunity.
- Professional Appearance
  - Appropriate hygiene should be adhered to, as well as clean and pressed clothing. No scented body products are to be used.
  - Hair is expected to be clean and neat.
  - Fingernails must be no longer than the end of the finger, well-manicured, clean, and without chipped nail polish. Artificial nails are not allowed in direct patient care.
  - Jewelry is NOT permitted in the surgical setting.
  - Footwear should be closed-toed and comfortable. Leather shoes are recommended but not mandatory.
  - Beards and mustaches must be clean and neatly trimmed and covered in the clinical setting following the clinical site’s policies.
- The proper PPE MUST be worn whenever the student is scrubbed in surgery. If a student fails to have the proper PPE including protective eyewear, lead aprons etc., the clinical instructor has the authority to send the student home which will result in an absence.
  - If a student is found to be in violation of the PPE policy on more than one occasion this

will be seen as a violation of Student Conduct, and they may be dismissed from the program.

- Lab coats must be worn outside of the Department of Surgery in accordance with the clinical site's policies
- PPE must be removed following the clinical site's policies and procedures.

## **IX. Bloodborne Pathogen and Infectious Disease**

### **1. General - Professional Risks**

Interactions with patients in the health care system carry inherent risks to both the patient and caregiver, including, but not limited to, communicable diseases. In the surgical technology curriculum, students will be given information regarding known risks for various diseases and measures to decrease these risks.

### **2. Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens**

The surgical technology program students, faculty, and staff have the obligation to maintain standards health care and professionalism that are consistent with the public's expectations of the health professions.

We are committed to addressing issues related to bloodborne pathogens, such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in a spirit of compassion and sensitivity to individual needs as well as to community welfare. The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk of transmission of a bloodborne pathogen from an infected health care worker or student to a patient.

Health care workers or students who are exposed to a blood borne pathogen in the course of their work in the surgical technology program at Harper College are expected to follow the procedures set forth in the Harper College's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control program and the Surgical Technology Program's Infection and Exposure Control program see; VII 4A Student Safety Requirements.

The surgical technology program recognizes that knowledge and information about bloodborne pathogens continues to change and therefore this policy will be reviewed annually, and changes will be recommended as appropriate.

### **3. Patient Care**

All students, faculty, and staff are ethically obligated to provide patient care with compassion and demonstrate respect for human dignity.

Students, faculty, and staff are ethically obligated to respect the rights of privacy and confidentiality of patients with infectious diseases.

No students, faculty, and staff may ethically refuse to treat a patient solely because the patient is at risk of contracting or has an infectious disease. These patients must not be subjected to discrimination. The surgical technology program will protect the privacy of confidentiality of any students, faculty, and staff who test positive for an infectious disease.

Personnel who pose a risk of transmitting an infectious agent must consult with Health and Psychological Services or other appropriate health care professionals to determine whether continuing to provide professional services represents a risk to patients. If a faculty member learns that continuing to provide professional health services represents a risk to patients that person should inform the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator and HC Dean. The Dean will take steps consistent with the advice of health care professionals and with current federal, state and/or local guidelines to ensure that such individuals do not engage in any professional activity that would create a risk of transmission.

#### **4. Infection Control**

All students are required to follow “Standard Precautions” which is the basis of the practices and procedures. The program faculty has established and enforced clinical and laboratory protocols to ensure adequate asepsis, infection and hazard control, and hazardous waste disposal. These protocols are consistent with current federal, state and/local guidelines. The protocol includes the use of gloves, masks, and protective eyewear by students in clinical settings.

#### **5. Obligation to Report**

A student, who is infected with HIV, HBC, HCV or another bloodborne pathogen, is encouraged to report his/her status to the program coordinator.

#### **6. Confidentiality**

All information concerning the health status of a health care worker or student infected by a bloodborne pathogen shall be disclosed only in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

#### **7. Chronic Communicable Diseases – Board of Trustees Policy**

##### **Student**

A student who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease may attend the College and participate in programs and activities whenever, after reasonable accommodation, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others.

A student who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease may be denied admission to, or may be dismissed from, a particular program or course of study only when such chronic communicable disease has a direct effect on the student’s ability to perform so as to render the student not qualified for the program or course of study, or materially alters the fundamental course or program.

No other person who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease shall be denied the use of college facilities or services whenever, after reasonable accommodation, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others.

The President shall establish rules and regulations that are designed to implement this policy consistent with state and federal laws.

## Appendix A

### Acknowledgement of Receipt of the Harper College Surgical Technology Student Handbook

By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have received the **Surgical Technology** Handbook that I am responsible for knowledge of its contents, and I agree to adhere to the rules and procedures it contains.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

### Acknowledgement of Essential Abilities Standards and Essential Abilities Requirement

By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have read the essential abilities standards and that I meet all the Essential Abilities Requirements. I understand that a change in any of the essential abilities that will affect me long term or permanently and/or will interfere with my ability to secure a clinical spot I will be withdrawn from the surgical technology program.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Students who undergo significant medical events (i.e. surgery, etc.) must re-submit the Essential Abilities form signed by themselves and the attending health care provider in order to continue in the surgical technology program.



## Appendix C

### Acknowledgement of Required Medical Insurance Coverage

As a health career student, I understand:

1. The possibility exists for me to become injured or ill within a clinical setting.
2. Harper College and the clinical setting cannot be held responsible for any injury/illness or expenses incurred due to injury/illness.
3. It is my responsibility to provide medical insurance coverage for myself to participate in the clinical setting.
4. My insurance will be kept current throughout the term of clinical practice.
5. Health and Psychological Services (A364) can assist students with identifying a plan to meet the requirement.
6. I am required to submit an insurance card or letter with my name and current date of health insurance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix D

### Signature Form Following a Failure of a Surgical Technology Course

I understand the grading policies and that if I receive either a D or an F in a surgical technology class that I will be dismissed from the surgical technology program.

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty or Program Director Signature\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix E

### Health Careers Student Signature Sheet

Program: Surgical Technology

I realize that I am responsible for complying with the policies, procedures and guidelines of the College, HC Division and health program/courses including but not limited to the following:

Catalogues/Guidelines books

- Harper College Catalogue and Student Handbook
- Division guidelines, requirements and procedures
- Program Guidelines and lab/clinical manuals

Required program clinical participation policies including but not limited to:

- **Maintaining required BLS credentials\***
- **Completing of initial and ongoing health requirements\***
- **Participating in required criminal background investigations\***
- **Verifying health insurance\***
- Completing and annually reviewing required clinical educational programs (i.e. Mandatory Courses)
- Complying with college and clinical agency specific policies, procedures and practices, including JCAHO, IEMA and OSHA standards.
- Maintaining HIPAA and confidentiality standards and universal standards precautions at all times, including the campus lab as well as in the clinical setting.
- Performs the essential functions for health career program students independently or with reasonable accommodations. Will provide physician return to program note if undergone a significant medical event (i.e., birth of child, surgery etc.)
- Participate in videotaping and multimedia production of performance required for learning and assessment.

Student behavior and conduct: I realize I must

- Demonstrate principles of professional behavior as defined by the program in the guidelines book or course syllabus.
- Comply with characteristics of academic honesty as defined by the Harper College Code of Conduct, program guidelines book and course syllabus.
- Assume active role for learning process through engagement and compliance with program and course requirements.
- Be respectful of campus classroom, lab and locker spaces, and adhere to rules of use for them, with attention to safety.

***Furthermore, I also realize that:***

- *The college, division and/or program reserve the right to change policies, procedures and guidelines without prior notification, and that the College, Division or Program will inform me of those changes.*
- *This signed document will be placed in my student folder in the Health Careers and Public Safety Division office.*
- *My social security number may be disclosed as required for clinical purposes, regulatory*

*requirements and certification documentation*

- *Failure to comply with the policies, procedures or guidelines of college, the HC division, the program and the clinical agencies assigned to may result in grade reduction, course failure or dismissal from the program. Note that if behaviors result in a clinical agency refusing to allow me to return, the program/college is not obligated to find me an alternate clinical site, which in turn will affect my participation in the program.*

My signature (below) acknowledges my receipt of this information, and the understanding that I am held accountable for knowing and abiding by all items noted on this list. I am also aware that this list is not an exhaustive list. I realize that a breach of any of these could result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. I understand that I will sign this at the start of the program and will be asked to sign an additional form if there are policy changes from this handbook.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Good luck!

The text "Good luck!" is written in a black, cursive script. It is surrounded by several gold-colored stars of varying sizes. A thick, gold-colored swoosh underline is positioned beneath the text, starting from the left and curving upwards to the right.