

FAYETTEVILLE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Surgical First Assistant Advisee Handbook

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Welcome

Welcome to the Surgical First Assistant (SFA) program at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Surgical First Assistant Program. This program provides Certified Surgical Technologists (CST) the didactic and clinical experience necessary to become surgical assistants. Unique to the program is our non-competitive admissions and our Work-Based Learning (WBL) clinical experience.

The program is an intensive certificate-level program designed to prepare graduates for a career as a Surgical Assistant in the dynamic healthcare field of the 21st century.

Prospective students should carefully review this handbook, which reflect the admission requirements. Please feel free to address any concerns you have with me. Again, thank you for your interest in our program.

Terry Herring

Terry Herring, DHSc. Ed.S, CST/CSFA, CSPDT, CSIS, COA, FAST
Division Chairperson – Surgical Services

Description of Profession

Surgical Assistants are integral members of the surgical team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, surgical technologists, and other surgical personnel in delivering patient care and assuming appropriate perioperative responsibilities. Surgical Assistants have a shared responsibility for maintaining the sterile field and being constantly vigilant that all members of the team adhere to aseptic technique.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), surgical assistants are expected to have an excellent job outlook, with a job growth rate of 15% between 2014 and 2024.

Surgical First Assistant Program Mission

The Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) Surgical First Assistant (SFA) Program is dedicated to academic excellence in medical education. Our mission is to develop competent Surgical Assistants who are committed to life-long learning.

ASA Mission

“The Association of Surgical Assistants represents a broad coalition of surgical assistant practitioners, who share several common goals including optimizing surgical patient care, promoting the recognition of all surgical assistant, advancing legislative strategies and providing relevant continuing education experiences.”

FTCC Mission

“Serve our community as a learning-centered institution to build a globally competitive workforce supporting economic development.”

NC – SARA

SARA – the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement – is an agreement between member states, territories and districts of the United States of America.

States that have legislative issues are California, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee and Virginia. New York and New Jersey do not allow surgical assistants to practice in their states, and in California there are very few opportunities to practice.

States requiring registration and/or licensure are Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, Virginia; and Washington DC. Texas has licensure but it is not required, to practice.

It is highly recommended that students seek guidance from the appropriate credentialing agency in your home state before beginning the academic program located outside your state.

Responsibilities of the SFA

As defined by the American College of Surgeons, “The surgical assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient.” In addition to intraoperative duties, the surgical assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to facilitate better patient care. The surgical assistant works under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations. Surgical assistants have the following responsibilities:

Preoperative Duties

- Determine specific equipment needed for procedure
- Confirm placement and functionality of equipment and supplies with surgical team
- Confirm availability of specialty supplies with surgical team
- Communicate surgeon’s preferences and specific patient’s needs to surgical team
- Confirm procedure with surgeon
- Assess patient information, history/physical, and results of diagnostic and radiological tests
- Confirm patient chart, preoperative tests and diagnostic imaging is in the OR and available for review
- Review permit to confirm procedure and special needs
- Select and place x-rays for reference
- Assist in moving and positioning of patient
- Prepare patient skin
- Insertion and removal of Foley catheter
- Place pneumatic tourniquet
- Drape patient for surgical procedure

Intraoperative

- Participate in Time Out briefing; patient and procedure verification process; prevention of wrong-site surgery
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of normal and pathological anatomy and physiology, while assisting surgeon during procedures
- Insertion of Trocar
- Injection of Local Anesthetics
- Provide optimal visualization, retraction and exposure of tissue and organs appropriate to the tissue type, retraction instruments and/or technique
- Assisting in maintaining hemostasis by direct pressure, use of appropriate surgical instrument for the task, placement of ties, placement of suture ligatures, application of chemical hemostatic agents, participate in volume replacement or autotransfusion as appropriate or other measures as directed by the surgeon
- Use electro-surgical units including electrocautery, monopolar and bi-polar
- Clamp, cut, and ligate tissue per surgeon’s directive, privileges, and/or hospital policy
- Maintain integrity of sterile field

- Closure of all layers/body planes as per surgeon's directive
- Insertion and securing of wound drainage tubes per surgeon's directive
- Selection and application of wound dressings

Postoperative

- Provide patient transfer and transport along with safe transfer of care
- Assist with monitoring for immediate postoperative complications and resuscitation of patient during cardiac arrest or other life-threatening events
- Perform any other duties or procedures incident to the surgical procedure deemed necessary and as directed by the surgeon
- Participate in postoperative debriefing

FTCC Core Competencies

FTCC provides programs to meet the technical, vocational, and general education needs of its students and the surrounding community. Graduates of FTCC, regardless of program area, should possess a common core of general education competencies that promote success in the work place, facilitate the learning of technical skills, and ease the transition to further higher education. Achievement of these core competencies should also serve to enhance quality of life. In reviewing the required courses for all degree and diploma programs at the College, certain commonly embedded competencies within the general education core have been identified. These core competencies are defined as follows.

- **Communicate** effectively using the conventions of American Standard English in professional and academic environments
- Use **critical thinking** to analyze problems and make logical decisions
- Demonstrate **socialization skills** that support cultural awareness and a global perspective
- Demonstrate **quantitative** competencies
- Demonstrate **computer literacy**

Program Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, the student should be able to:

- Perform as a competent entry-level surgical assistant in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains.
- Apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology within the surgical environment, which includes the ability to differentiate between normal and the abnormal anatomy, physiology, laboratory findings, and other diagnostic data.
- Demonstrate safe practice techniques in regards to perioperative duties, and work effectively with surgeons and other health care professional to provide patient-centered care.
- Demonstrate a strong surgical conscience, accountability, legal implications, and present an image appropriate for the surgical assistant profession.

- Be able to correlate the elements, actions, and use of medications and anesthetic agents use in the perioperative environment.

Offices, Facilities, and Services

Advisor/Instructor

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Thomas Bracy, Allied Health Academic Advisor
Health Technologies Center, 169M
BRACYT@faytechcc.edu
(910) 678-7444

College Services

Admission
Tony Rand Student Center
(910) 678-8473
ADMISSIONS@faytechcc.edu

Bookstore

General Classroom Building
(910) 678-8342
BOOKSTORE@faytechcc.edu

Disability Support Services

Tony Rand Student Center
(910) 678-8479
GROOVERC@faytechcc.edu

Library

Paul H. Thompson Library
(910) 678-8247
LIBRARY@faytechcc.edu

Work-Based Learning

Center for Business and Industry
(910) 678-8453
NUNNERYJ@faytechcc.edu

Financial Aid

Tony Rand Student Center
(910) 678-8242
FINAID@faytechcc.edu

Physical Demands and Standards

The physical demands and functions of the surgical assistant include:

- Possessing the medium strength required to position patients during procedures.
- Pushing and pulling objects on a regular basis.
- Frequently lifting objects 10-25 pounds.
- Able to refrain from breaks for extended periods.
- Possessing maneuverability to include standing, bending, stooping, and sitting for long periods of time.
- Standing most of the time, occasionally with the added weight of a lead apron.
- Assisting patients with mobility.
- Demonstrate sufficient visual to load very fine suture with/without corrective lenses while wearing safety glasses.
- Utilizing near visual acuity and depth perception to anticipate and function while in the perioperative environment.
- Be able to hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips and within 20 feet.
- Maintaining composure in stressful and varying situations.
- Interacting compassionately with patients experiencing varying levels of anxiety.
- Possibly being exposed to infection from disease-bearing patients.

- Being exposed to ionizing radiation (using appropriate protective devices and procedures).
- Be able to make appropriate judgment decisions.
- Be free of reportable communicable disease and chemical abuse.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact and verbally communicate with others.

Surgical Assistant Program Costs

Expense	In-State Cost	Out-of-State Cost
Tuition & Fees	\$1,662.00	\$ 5,118.00
Books & Supplies*	\$528.00 (approx.)	\$528.00 (approx.)
Malpractice Insurance	\$14.00	\$14.00
Certification Application Fee	\$190.00 (AST Members) \$290.00 (Non-Members)	\$190.00 (AST Members) \$290.00 (Non-Members)
Graduation Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00
Total	\$2,419.00 (AST Members)	\$5,875.00 (AST Members)

Note: All item amounts are subject to change.

*Students must purchase a Suture Training Kit. Students will be provided ordering information, once accepted into the program.

Tuition Information

The Department of Surgical Services believes that we have developed the most cost effective program. By utilizing Blackboard and Work-Based Learning (WBL), the program can be offered at a lower tuition than many of the distanced education programs. Based on the number of hours, financial aid is not available for the program. However, the college does offer a payment plan. Tuition payment plans break down your tuition balance into affordable monthly payments. There is no interest, payment options are flexible, setup fees are affordable, and it is easy to enroll. For more information, visit [Payment Plan](#) (opens in a new window).

Curriculum Sequence

Length: 3 Semesters
Prerequisites: Associate Degree, Certified Surgical Technologist (CST), three years' experience
Award: Certificate

SEMESTER 1

Prefix No.	Summer	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
SFA 200	SFA Anatomy and Pathophysiology	3	2	0	4
Totals		3	2	0	4

SEMESTER 2

Prefix No.	Fall	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
SFA 201	Fundamentals of SFA	3	0	0	3
SFA 203	Adv. Surgical Pharmacology	3	0	0	3
WBL 111	Work-Based Learning (Clinical)	0	0	10	1
Totals		6	0	0	7

SEMESTER 3

Prefix No.	Spring	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
SFA 202	Surgical Patient Management	3	0	0	3
SFA 204	SFA Techniques	3	0	0	3
WBL 121	Work-Based Learning (Clinical)	0	0	10	1
Totals		6	0	10	7

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS... 18

Malpractice Insurance

Students are to obtain malpractice insurance (Fall semester) available through the college. Refunds on malpractice insurance fees will be granted only if the student withdraws prior to the first day of class. No refunds will be given in any other circumstances. Students must provide a copy of their malpractice insurance receipt to the Division Chair.

Admissions Process

1. Complete the FTCC Application Process.
2. Get transcripts sent to Admission Department
3. Start date – summer entry, contact Terry Herring to apply for the SFA Program: HERRINGT@faytechcc.edu or (910) 678-8358.
4. Complete required departmental paperwork.
5. Student must be a credentialed Surgical Technologist, and three years' work experience in order to be eligible for admission to the program.

Selection Criteria

Students are admitted on a first come, first served basis.

Course Information

All didactic courses are offered entirely online. The clinical education portion will be Work-Based Learning (WBL), which will allow the student to continue his/her employment. The student is responsible to work with his/her management staff and surgeons to be able to complete the required surgical cases. FTCC is not responsible for clinical placement.

Pre-WBL Clinical Skills

During the summer semester, the student must successfully complete the pre-clinical modules and skill check-offs. The modules will be taught via Blackboard, and an approved preceptor at the student's place of employment can assess the pre-clinical skills.

Clinical/Work-Based Learning

As noted, the clinical portions of the program are taught as Worked-Based Learning (WBL). WBL is an extension and application of didactic instruction through a supervised work experience related to the student's educational goals. It is a three-way partnership between the college, student, and supervisor, which benefits each party.

Academic credit is awarded for the learning or growth gained during WBL assignments. The student's grade for the work experience is based upon the supervisor's evaluations, the student's assessments, and the WBL Faculty Coordinator's appraisal.

Clinical Requirements

The student must complete **140** documented surgical procedures in the role of the surgical assistant. A minimum of 20 cases must be performed in General Surgery with the remaining cases divided between a **minimum of two of the specialties** areas below. A minimum of 20 cases must be completed in each of the two specialties selected. These cases are completed during WBL I and WBL II. Note: The 4th edition of the Core Curriculum does allow some autonomy, contact the Div. Chair.

Specialty Areas

Cardiovascular	Peripheral Vascular	Thoracic
Orthopedic	Neurosurgery	OB-GYN
Urology	Plastic	General
Endosurgery	Ophthalmology	Otorhinolaryngology
Oral/Maxillofacial	Pediatrics	Oncology

