

# Program Review

## Executive Summary

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### Surgical Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Surgical Technology (SG), A.A.S.*
- *Applied Health Studies: Surgical Technology Emphasis (BAG), B.S. (in-program only)*

April 2014



The Surgical Technology program was developed in 1966 and graduated the first class in 1967 with a Certificate in Surgical Technology; the major was discontinued in 1999 due to concerns over the quality of the curriculum and program length (12 weeks of didactic and 28 weeks of clinical externship). In 2003, at the dean's request, the College agreed to establish an associate's degree in Surgical Technology (SG) in response to projected growth in demand for surgical technologists locally, regionally, and nationally. The new major was presented before the Pennsylvania College of Technology Curriculum Committee, which approved the curriculum with a projected start date of Fall 2004. A full-time director was appointed in January 2005, and a clinical director was appointed three months later. The course syllabi were expanded and structured using the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology and the *Standards* as a guide; the program was awarded initial accreditation in 2005. A full-time faculty member was added in August 2007, and a new director was hired in January 2011.

The SG curriculum is now 24 months in length and was revised in 2012 to meet the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) standards of the Core Curriculum Sixth Edition mandated to be implemented by January 2013. The maximum class size is 18 as mandated by ARC/STSA. Currently, 32 SG/BAH students are enrolled: 17 first-year students and 15 second-year students. Additionally, 16 students are pre-health (program candidates).

The associate-degree major is six semesters, including summers, and totals 72.5 credits. Students' skills are developed throughout didactic and laboratory sessions with multiple opportunities for practice. Clinical rotations begin in the first semester of the professional phase of the program. The clinical rotations are designed to strengthen the didactic concepts by immediate application of newly acquired skills. Before starting the initial clinical rotation, all students are required to demonstrate the established basic competencies related to aseptic technique, development of a surgical conscience, along with the scrub, gown, glove, and table set-up skills. The clinical rotation expectations build upon those competencies and include demonstrated progression of skills and behaviors.

Graduating classes in the past three years have exceeded the national average scores on the national certification examination by 35% in 2011, 10.3% in 2012, and 27% in 2013.

#### Recommendations

- Review current marketing efforts and identify potential areas for enrollment growth.
- Work with local marketing affiliates to increase awareness of the surgical technology program.
- Continue to graduate only the most qualified students to uphold the program's reputation within the community.
- Work to keep student morale high.
- Capitalize on alumni in the field as a marketing strategy.

- Continue to work with K-12 and visit vocational-technical schools career technology centers to provide information regarding surgical technology careers and Penn College Now (dual enrollment) opportunities.
- Provide training to admissions staff to increase knowledge of the surgical technologist's scope of responsibilities.
- Require all pre-students with developmental needs to meet with the program director.
- Expand the area outside of the surgical laboratories into a functional sterile processing area.