

Requirements for Surgical Technology Program

Surgical Technician Essential Functions

Health care professionals require the performance of essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to provide safe care, generate accurate data and communicate effectively to patients and other health care personnel. To effectively train surgical technology professionals, the performance of these functions is incorporated throughout the program. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency of these functions in the campus and hospital labs and applied experience. Students requiring special accommodations are required to notify the program director at the time of program application. The essential functions include, but are not limited to:

Initial beside each statement you understand and able to comply with the statement:

___ 1. Intact gross and fine motor skills; precise hand/eye coordination and dexterity and the ability to discriminate tactile sensations.

___ 2. Clear speech. (Not required for Sterile Processing Technician Program.)

___ 3. Congruent verbal/nonverbal behavior; emotional stability; cooperative; no signs of impaired judgment.

___ 4. Able to walk, bend, stoop, kneel, stand, twist, sit, carry, lift, reach hands overhead.

___ 5. Able to evacuate a 4-story building in less than 3 minutes.

___ 6. Able to sit and stand long periods of time (4-7 hours in class; 8-12 hours in clinical).

___ 7. Able to pull 75 lbs; lift 35 lbs; push 100 lbs

___ 8. Able to travel independently to clinical sites as assigned.

___ 9. Intact short and long-term memory.

___ 10. Visual color discrimination and depth perception; near and far vision 20/20 (may be corrected with lenses).

___ 11. Able to hear and discriminate alarms (may be corrected with hearing aid).

___ 12. Able to detect odors sufficient to maintain environmental safety, including smoke and noxious odors.

___ 13. Frequent exposure to electricity, electromagnetic fields, electronic media and latex; chemical hazards including but not limited to disinfecting solutions, dyes, acetone, bleach, and alcohol.

___ 14. Possible exposure to toxic drugs; anesthetic gases; ionizing radiation; infectious agents (blood, urine, mucus, saliva, etc.)

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

The use of medication/substances that may cause drowsiness or otherwise impair mental or physical functioning, whether prescribed, over-the-counter, or illegal, is prohibited during class, lab and clinical experiences because of the potential safety hazards to self, co-workers, and patients.

It is imperative that a student notifies the program director immediately if they no longer meet the Essential Program Requirements listed above. The ability to meet all of these requirements, with or without accommodation, is necessary to be able to demonstrate clinical competency and to meet program outcomes required for graduation. For information regarding disabilities accommodations, please contact the EAS office at CMU.

- ✓ Read, comprehend and accurately remember and apply oral and written procedures
- ✓ Measure, calculate, interpret, analyze, reason, evaluate and explain equipment, procedures, and policies.
- ✓ Solve problems, make critical judgments and initiate corrective action to ensure accuracy and reliability of results in a timely fashion.
- ✓ Organize and prioritize one's work for completion in a timely fashion.

The Behavioral and Emotional Demands required include:

- ✓ Interpersonal abilities sufficient to effectively communicate, both verbally and non-verbally, in a professional, courteous, and respectful manner with patients, physicians' other health care and non-health care employees, students, and laboratory personnel.
- ✓ Emotional stability to recognize and respond quickly and efficiently in unsafe and emergency situations in order to minimize injury to patients, self and nearby individuals.
- ✓ Exhibit compassion and tolerance for others, respect cultural diversity.
- ✓ Emotional stability to function effectively in stressful situations and complete all responsibilities, exercise sound judgment, is flexible and adapts to sudden unpleasant situations common in the clinical setting.
- ✓ Project a professional appearance by being well-groomed and punctual.
- ✓ Ability to maintain patient confidentiality and to exercise ethical judgment, integrity, honesty, dependability, and accountability in the performance of one's laboratory responsibilities.
- ✓ Evaluate own performance, accept constructive criticism and seek performance improvement.
- ✓ Maintain a cooperative and productive working relationship with fellow students, patients and other health professionals.

Note: Both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 29 U.S.C.A. Sect. 794 and the new Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against 'otherwise qualified' persons with a disability. If an applicant can perform those 'essential functions', he or she is 'otherwise qualified' under the law and must be treated the same as people without a disability. A person who cannot perform the 'essential functions' is not 'otherwise qualified' and may be denied access to the program without being subject to legal action for discrimination. (From NAACLS NEWS, Volume 50, fall 1991)