

Trident Technical College offers a Surgical Technology program that prepares and educates students to enter the workforce with the skills required in surgical technology. Students will learn from instructors with years of surgical technology experience. Graduates of this program will be skilled in providing proficient care to individuals in the surgical arena. Students are required to take 16 credits of general education core requirements in addition to 53 credits of major requirements. The associate degree program is 2 years long. Upon program completion, students are eligible to take the national certification that the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) offers to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

Here are the steps you will need to take to apply and be accepted into the program:

1. [Apply](#) to the college as an *Associate in Science - Health Science Prep* student.
 - a. Meet all admission requirements (state-issued photo ID and official proof of high school graduation)
2. Request that official college transcripts be sent to the TTC Admissions office from all prior institutions. Military transcripts are also required if you are on active duty or a veteran.
3. Submit an [online health sciences application](#) for the Surgical Technology program.
4. Your application will be reviewed, and you will be sent a list of missing requirements if applicable.
 - a. Prerequisites for the program include:
 - i. BIO 210 and AHS 104
 1. These courses must be completed no more than five years before any acceptance offer.
 2. A minimum GPA requirement of 2.5 is calculated using only your BIO210 and AHS104 grades.
 - ii. After submitting the Health Sciences Application, you will receive details regarding the Information Session and quiz in your Trident Tech email from the Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator. You must achieve a 100% score on the online quiz following the session to verify that the information was reviewed and understood.
 - b. While you work on meeting your prerequisites, your application will be held in pending status.
5. Upon completing all prerequisites, you can submit a [statement of completion form](#). This will begin your review for acceptance into the next available class. The program is currently accepting students to start in Fall 2027 according to TTC's "first qualified, first admitted" policy. The next available class is subject to change as the program offers limited seats per year.

For general information regarding the program, you can review the admissions and curriculum guide by going to tridenttech.edu and visiting the [Surgical Technology program's course catalog webpage](#).



Surgical Technology Program Associate in Applied Science

Applicants will be admitted to this program on a “first-qualified, first-admitted” basis. Applicants are considered qualified for admission to the next available class when they meet **all** TTC and program requirements. Classes begin **Fall Semester**.

Program Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting the college’s general admission requirements, including submission of official high school and college transcripts, applicants must complete all of the following requirements:

1. Complete the **Health Sciences Application**. Application link can be found on the TTC Health Sciences webpage.

Note: When the number of applicants qualifying at the same time exceeds space available in the program, admission will be prioritized according to the date and time that the Health Science application was received by the Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator.

2. Complete BIO 210 Anatomy and Physiology I and AHS 104 Medical Vocabulary/Anatomy with a minimum grade of C. Both BIO 210 and AHS 104 must be completed within five years of the program start date.
3. Achieve a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA in the above required prerequisite courses (BIO 210 and AHS 104).
4. After submitting the Health Sciences Application, the student will receive details in their Trident Tech email from the Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator regarding the Information Session and quiz. Students must achieve a 100% score on the online quiz following the session to verify the information was reviewed and understood.
5. Submit a Statement of Completion form online. The link to the form can be found on the Health Sciences webpage.

Trident Technical College is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, gender or age in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices.

Effective Fall 2025

Prerequisites			<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Credit</u>
BIO 210		Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4
AHS 104		Medical Vocabulary/Anatomy	3	0	3

First Semester – Fall

BIO 211	F1	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4
SUR 101	FA	Introduction to Surgical Technology	3	6	5
*MAT 120	F2	Probability and Statistics	3	0	<u>3</u>
					12

Second Semester – Spring

AHS 130	S1	Surg. Environment for Health Professionals	3	0	3
SUR 102		Applied Surgical Technology	3.5	4.5	5
SUR 123		Sterile Processing Technology	3	0	3
SUR 130	S2	Biomedical Science for the Surgical Tech	1	0	<u>1</u>
					12

Third Semester – Summer

ENG 101		English Composition I	3	0	3
SUR 103		Surgical Procedures I	3	3	4
SUR 110		Introduction to Surgical Practicum	0	15	<u>5</u>
					12

Fourth Semester – Fall

SUR 104		Surgical Procedures II	3	3	4
SUR 112		Surgical Practicum I	0	12	4
**REQ HUM	F1	See College Catalog for approved Humanities elective	3	0	<u>3</u>
					11

Fifth Semester – Spring

SUR 105		Surgical Procedures III	3	3	4
SUR 113		Advanced Surgical Practicum	0	18	6
***REQ SSC	S1	See College Catalog for approved Behavioral/Social Science	3	0	3
SUR 120	S2	Surgical Seminar	2	0	<u>2</u>
					15

Total Semester Hours: 69

*MAT 110 College Algebra may be substituted.

**PHI 110 Ethics is the recommended Humanities elective.

***PSY 201 General Psychology is the recommended Behavioral/Social Science

Course Progression: Once accepted into the program, students must earn a grade of C or better in each course and earn a grade of satisfactory on professional development evaluations in order to progress to the next semester.

Please note: Health Sciences students are required to have drug screenings, criminal background checks, and a current Student Health Record with immunizations and titers. For more information, students may contact their Surgical Technology advisor.

NOTE: Falsification of any information submitted will make a student ineligible for admission to or continuation in the Surgical Technology Program.

Surgical Technology Program Entrance Checklist

- ☐ Fill out/submit **TTC application** to the college and submit all high school and college transcripts. Follow up with admissions to ensure all transcripts have been received.
- ☐ Be sure to declare both majors for financial aid purposes. **Please declare the Associate in Science - Health Science Preparation AND the Certificate - Health Science Preparation.** This will ensure that you will qualify for as many scholarships and as much financial aid as possible to help fund your education. You will only be awarded the SCWINS scholarship for your program specific courses if you meet all of the qualifications AND have the certificate for health science prep declared as a major AND sign the affidavit. Without the declaring the certificate as a major AND signing the affidavit, you will not be eligible for the no cost tuition from SCWINS even if you otherwise qualify for SCWINS funding. However, you may also qualify for other financial aid funding from submitting the FAFSA by having the Associate in Science major declared. You can add the Certificate by going into Etrieve – Forms – Registrar – Change of Major Request – Add New Program of Study – Certificate and choose Health Science Prep.
- ☐ You must have the Associate in Science – Health Science Prep major declared in order to fill out/submit the online a **Health Sciences Application**: On the TTC homepage-Click “Take Classes”-Click “Academic Divisions”-Choose “Health Sciences”-Scroll down the page to FORMS and choose “Health Sciences Online application”
- ☐ If needing financial aid, don’t forget to fill out a **FAFSA** form and visit the financial aid office to discover all of the financial aid options available to you. Fill out the **SCWINS affidavit** in Etrieve using the link below. If you qualify for SCWINS funding, the affidavit will allow SCWINS to be processed.
- ☐ [SC Workforce Scholarships and Grants Affidavit 2024-2025 | Forms | Home | Etrieve | Central](#)
- ☐ Achieve a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA at the time of acceptance and at the date of entry into the program based on classes taken within 5 years of acceptance into the program.

- Complete AHS 104 Medical Vocabulary/Basic Anatomy and BIO210 Anatomy & Physiology I with a minimum combined GPA of 2.5 prior to acceptance into the program. AHS 104 and BIO210 must have been taken within the last five years of acceptance into the program. Submit a Statement of Completion form (see link below) to after successfully passing BOTH courses with a minimum combined GPA of 2.5.

- After submitting the Health Sciences application, you will receive details in your Trident Tech email from the Health Sciences Admissions Coordinator regarding the Surgical Technology Information Session. Complete the online information session and achieve 100% score on the online quiz following the session to verify the information was reviewed and understood. ****You may take the quiz as many times as necessary to achieve the score of 100%****

- Submit a Statement of Completion form (see link below) after successfully passing ALL prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of C as well as other requirements for MLT admissions. The Statement of Completion form is found using the link below (copy and paste in your browser if the link is inactive) or scroll to the bottom of the Health Sciences page on the TTC website. Under “Forms” you will find the Statement of Completion form. Click the link to the form and you will be taken to the form in Etrieve. Fill out the form online and click “Submit” at the bottom of the screen.

<https://tridenttechcentral.etrieve.cloud/Index#/form/182>

Comparison of Accredited vs. Non-Accredited ST Programs

	Accredited Surgical Technology Programs (ARC/STSA or ABHES)	Non-Accredited Surgical Technology Programs / On-the-job Training Programs
Degree/Diploma/Certificate	Associate's Degree	Diploma/Certificate of Completion
Certification	CST (Certified Surgical Technologist) through NBSTSA	TS-C through NCCT or another credential that is not nationally recognized
Length of Program	1 year for pre-requisites 1 year for Surgical Tech program	5 days to 6 months
Clinical Time in Hospital	120 cases minimum required for graduation and certification	0 cases required prior to completion or certification. Many programs do not provide clinicals and students must seek out their own clinical experience.
Hands-On Skills Labs	1 Semester prior to clinical rotation	Minimal or online
Instrument Identification	1 Semester prior to clinical rotation	Minimal or online
Aseptic Technique Training	1 Semester prior to clinical rotation	Minimal or online
Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology, Pharmacology Courses	Completed during or prior to the Surgical Technology program	No Requirement
Cost of Program	Less than \$10,000 for pre-requisites and Surgical Tech program	Prices vary up to \$40,000, but most programs are for profit. Programs tend to cost more but offer less.

	CST	TS-C, NST, or other credential
Certifying Organization	National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NCCA accredited)	National Center for Competency Testing or National Medical Licensing Association
Program Accreditation Required	Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA through CAAHEP) or Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)	No
Nationally Recognized	Yes 17 states recognize ONLY this credential	No
Surgical Cases Required	120 minimum completed prior to graduation and sitting for certification per ARC/STSA standards	No case requirement prior to the credentialing exam. For the TS-C, cases may be completed up to 2 years after sitting for the exam. Other credentials require no cases for certification.