

Career Focus on...

Surgical Technology

Introduction

- Are you interested in working in the medical field?
- Do you have good communication skills, good organizational skills, and a detail-oriented mind?
- Would you like to help people who are undergoing difficult health challenges?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider a Surgical Technology Certificate from Quinsigamond Community College.

Did You Know...?

- Surgical technologists work in a variety of medical settings, including operating rooms, clinics, and surgery centers.
- “Surgical Technologist” is ranked as one of the fastest growing jobs in Massachusetts through 2014. Worcester has a higher-than-average number of hospitals, so growth opportunities may be larger in the QCC area.
- Students who have finished the Surgical Technology Certificate can immediately enter the workforce or, choose to continue their studies to get an Associate’s Degree in a health profession such as Registered Nursing.

Surgical Technology @ QCC

The Surgical Technology Certificate program at QCC prepares students to begin a career as a Surgical Technologist, Operating Room Technician or to make progress towards an Associate’s degree in an allied health profession. The Surgical Technology program can be completed in three semesters; the coursework amounts to forty-one credits.

The program offers extensive coursework. Some of the required courses are Principles of Human Biology, Operating Room Techniques, Asepsis, Advanced Surgical Procedures, and Ethics. In addition, students in the Surgical Technology program will complete clinical externships in their second and third semesters.

At the conclusion of the three-semester curriculum, program graduates receive a Surgical Technology Certificate. QCC’s Surgical Technology Program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Students wishing to enter the Surgical Technology course must pass the TEAS exam with a 45% composite score. Students must also submit to a CORI/SORI check and provide certain medical documentation.

Career Options

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Median Annual Salary: \$28,860
Recommended Education: H.S. diploma or equivalent
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-assistants.htm

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PREPARER

Median Annual Salary: \$30,050
Recommended Education: H.S. diploma or equivalent
www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-9093.00

MEDICAL APPLIANCE TECHNICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$35,630
Recommended Education: Varies; H.S. or some college
www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-9082.00

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Median Annual Salary: \$39,920
Recommended Education: Postsecondary non-degree award or Associate’s degree
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm

MEDICAL OR CLINICAL LABORATORY

TECHNOLOGIST/TECHNICIAN
Median Annual Salary: \$46,680
Recommended Education: Bachelor’s degree
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm

Worcester Area Employers

- Lowell General Hospital
- Milford Regional Medical Center
- New England Organ Bank
- OnSite Services
- St. Vincent Hospital
- Tufts Medical Center
- UMass Memorial Medical Center

Next Steps

Wondering if Surgical Technology is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information: www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:
www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success
- Speak with an Advisor:
www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Surgical Technology courses.

Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*:

- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm
- Medical Assistants:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-assistants.htm
- Surgical Technologists:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm

Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, "Fastest Growing Occupations Through 2014."

O*NET Online:

- Summary Report for: 17-2111.02 - 31-9093.00 - Medical Equipment Preparers:
www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-9093.00
- Summary Report for: 51-9082.00 - Medical Appliance Technicians:
www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-9082.00

Quinsigamond Community College, Online Course Catalog

- Surgical Technology Certificate:
www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/surgical-technology

Professional Associations

- American Association of Medical Assistants:
www.aama-ntl.org
- American Medical Technologists:
www.americanmedtech.org
- Association of Surgical Technologists:
www.ast.org
- National Surgical Assistant Association:
www.nsaa.net

Positions Entered by QCC Graduates

- Surgical Technologist

Employment, Co-op, Internship, or Service Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Services Office:
www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services

Possible Transfer Schools

- Anna Maria College
- Assumption College
- Fitchburg State University
- Northeastern University
- Simmons College
- UMass Lowell
- UMass Medical School
- Worcester State University

Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar
- Email questions to:
transfer@qcc.mass.edu