

Surgical Technologist

PANHANDLE

Average Wage
\$16.95

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
5

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
150	150

TEXAS

Average Wage
\$17.36

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
315

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
6,450	8,750

UNITED STATES

Employment in
2006
84,330

Female 67%
Minority 39%

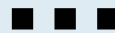
EMPLOYMENT CODES

OES 32928

*O*NET* 29-2055.00
Surgical Technologists

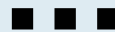
JOB DESCRIPTION

Assist operating room staff throughout surgical procedures by preparing the patient, equipment, and supplies; handing instruments to the surgeon, holding retractors, and cutting sutures. After the operation, they clean the operating room, sterilize equipment, and count all supplies and instruments.



SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED

- ◆ Basic knowledge of chemistry, mathematics, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, professional ethics, and medical terminology
- ◆ Manual dexterity
- ◆ Must be conscientious, orderly, and emotionally stable to handle the demands of the operating room environment



Surgical technicians, also called surgical technologists, assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Before an operation, technicians help set up the operating room with surgical instruments and equipment, sterile linens, and sterile solutions. They assemble, adjust, and check nonsterile equipment to ensure it is working properly. They prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical linens. They observe patients' vital signs, check charts, and help the surgical team scrub and put on gloves, gowns, and masks.

Technicians help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and may help apply dressings. Some operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines, and help operate diagnostic equipment. They may also maintain supplies of fluid, such as plasma and blood. At times, they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.

PANHANDLE AREA PUBLIC TRAINING PROVIDERS

Training Provider	Direct	Related	Education Offering
Academy of Professional Careers Amarillo		√	Medical Assisting Program
Amarillo College Amarillo, Dumas, Hereford	√		A.A.S. (Associate in Applied Science Degree) Surgical Technology Major
	√		Certificate of Completion (Surgical Technology)

HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT LEVELS BY INDUSTRY

General Medical/Surgical Hospitals	84%
Physician's Offices	5%
Outpatient Care Centers	5%
Specialty Hospitals	2%
Animal Production	1%
Dentist's Offices	1%
Health Practitioner's Offices	1%
Colleges/Universities/Professional Schools	1%

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Association of Surgical Technologists, 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (800) 637-7433, <http://www.ast.org>

Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist, 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 100, Littleton, CO 80120, (800) 707-0057, <http://www.lcc-st.org>

For additional website sources, please refer to the Resource Index.

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