

AAS, Surgical Technology Academic Assessment Plan

**Adopted by**

**The Surgical Technology faculty: March 27, 2024**

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# Mission Statement

The mission of the Surgical Technology AAS Degree program is to prepare competent, attentive and detail oriented surgical technologists for a successful career in the surgical setting, assisting surgeons and other members of the professional surgical team with direct patient care in the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care of the patient.

# Program Introduction

The University of Alaska Anchorage Surgical Technology Program AAS Degree follows the standards and guidelines put forth by the Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). CAAHEP accreditation is required in order for graduates of the program to be eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination. The outcomes identified for the UAA Surgical Technology AAS program are based on *Standards and Guidelines for an Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Technology.*

These standards and guidelines have been specifically established for CAAHEP accreditation of surgical technology programs. The updated 2023 *Standards* have been effective since 6/15/2023.

Assessment strategies have been chosen to align with identified program student learning outcomes. The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting has established specific outcomes and outcome thresholds which must be met by the program in order to maintain CAAHEP accreditation. Several assessment tools identified by the Council, including graduate and employer surveys, are required by CAAHEP for continuing program accreditation. The UAA Surgical Technology Program chooses to include these surveys as assessment tools since the surveys must be completed as a requirement of program accreditation.

# Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with an Associate of Applied Science is Surgical Technology will be able to:

* Apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting
* Communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients and their families
* Apply the principles of aseptic techniques in the perioperative setting
* Organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment
* Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment
* Collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient
* Demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team

# Measures

**Table 1: Association of Assessment Measures to Program Student Learning Outcomes**

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | Outcomes Assessment Exam | Practicum Evaluation | Skills Evaluation | Employer Survey | Graduate Survey | CST Exam |
| Apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients and their families | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Apply the principles of aseptic technique in the perioperative setting | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

0 = Measure is not used to measure the associated outcome.

1 = Measure is used to measure the associated outcome.

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# Assessment Measures

A description of the measures used in the assessment of the program student learning outcomes and their implementation are summarized in Table 2 below. The measures and their relationships to the program student learning outcomes are listed in Table 1 above.

**Table 2: Assessment Measures and Administration**

| **Student Learning Outcomes** | **Measure/ Curriculum Mapping** | **Benchmark** | **Timeline** | **Responsible** | **Data Analysis Key Findings** | **Use of Results Action Items and Dissemination** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Students will be able to: (task, capability, knowledge, skills, and dispositions)  Use measurable verbs | Assessment opportunity (course/experience, method/measures, assignment/rubric) | Standard, target, or achievement level  (usually a %)  Statement of student success | Identify when and how data are collected, aggregated, and analyzed | Identify who is responsible | List key findings (data) | Identify how results are used and shared  List any recommendations or action items |
| Apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting | Practicum Evaluations | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Clinical Case Evaluation 7E, Question #3 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Employer Satisfaction Survey | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Employer Satisfaction Survey  Question #1 |  |  |  |
|  | CST Exam | 98 questions correct out of 150 (Overall) | Annually |  |  |  |
| Communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients, and their families | Daily Evaluation of Students | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Daily Evaluation of Students  Question #1 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Employer Satisfaction Survey | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Employer Satisfaction Survey  Question #8 |  |  |  |
| Apply the principles of aseptic technique in the perioperative setting | Daily Evaluation of Students | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Daily Evaluation of Students  Question #3 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | CST Exam | 98 questions correct out of 150 (Overall) | Annually |  |  |  |
|  | Clinical Case Evaluation 7Ed | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Daily Evaluation of Students  Question #3 |  |  |  |
| Organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment | Clinical Case Evaluation 7Ed | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed  Question #9 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Employer Satisfaction Survey | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Employer Satisfaction Survey  Question #5 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Skills Evaluation | Satisfactory Rating | Annually  Skills Assessment 12-2 | Program Director |  |  |
| Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment | Written Exam | 100% of Students will achieve 86% or Higher | Annually | Program Director |  |  |
|  | CST Exam | 98 questions correct out of 150 (Overall) | Annually | Program Director |  |  |
| Collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient | Employer survey | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Employer Satisfaction Survey  Question #8 | Program Director |  |  |
| Demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team | Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Daily Evaluation of Students  Question #4 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed  Question #14 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Clinical Case Evaluation 7th Ed  Question #12 | Program Director |  |  |
|  | Employer Survey | 90% of students will score 3,4 or 5 | Annually  Employer Satisfaction Survey  Question #8 |  |  |  |

**Outcomes Assessment – CAAHEP Standard IV.B. Requirements**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Core Outcomes Indicator** | **Outcomes Assessment Threshold (Minimum Requirement** | **Type of Measure** | **When to Measure** | **Comments** |
| Programmatic Retention | 70% of students that are admitted to the program taking core courses must graduate/complete | Indirect | Measured upon graduation/program completion | Students who delay graduation beyond their original on-time cohort completion/anticipated graduation date, due to leaves of absence/repeating courses,  are considered attrition. |
| Outcomes Assessment Exam (OAE) Performance | All programs must administer an ARC/STSA-  approved OAE to all program graduates | Direct | Final semester of program; within a four  (4) week period prior to or after graduation | This threshold does not refer to a class average; it refers to individual student/graduate scores. 100% of completing students must participate. |
| CST Exam for all CAAHEP- accredited and SCT Exam- eligible  programs | 100% participation rate and 70% pass rate | Direct | ARC/STSA Reporting Year = August 1 – July 31 | Programs seeking CAAHEP initial accreditation are required to administer the NBSTSA Comprehensive SCT Practice Exam (100%  participation). |
| Job (Positive) Placement | 80% of graduates seeking employment must be employed in a field related to surgical technology | Indirect | At least once within 1 year after graduation | Graduates employed FT or PT in the ST field (or related field/on active military duty/ continuing their education are considered positive placements) |
| Employer Satisfaction | 50% return rate for surveys and 85% of the returned surveys rating the employee at a 3 or higher on a 5-point scale | Indirect | No sooner that 9 months after the graduate’s employment | At least 50% of employers reported under Placement outcomes return the survey tool and 85% of surveys indicate a “satisfactory” rating – 24 of 28 areas rated 3 or higher on a 5-point Likert scale |
| Graduate Satisfaction | 50% return rate for surveys and 85% of the returned surveys rating the employee at a 3 or higher on a 5-point scale | Indirect | No sooner than 6 months after graduation | At least 50% of graduates reported under Retention outcomes return the survey tool; 85% of surveys indicate a “satisfactory” rating 7 of 8 areas rated 3 or higher on the 5  point Likert scale. |

# Assessment Process

Annually, the program will assess its effectiveness in achieving its stated goals, learning domains, and program student learning outcomes. The annual timing of the assessment will align with the timeline established by the program’s accrediting agency, and an assessment report will be submitted to the UAA Office of Academic Affairs per UAA established reporting deadlines.

Data will be gathered by the program director, faculty and clinical coordinator as outlined in the above tables. The data will then be collated by the program director and shared with faculty for their review. Recommendations will be made by the program director, faculty and clinical coordinator. The recommendations will be discussed among the group, agreed upon and implemented in order that any required revision of the program will be made in a timely manner.

In addition to assessing program student learning outcomes, the program must also meet the outcomes assessment thresholds established by the Accreditation Review Council for Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants. These outcome measurements will be determined and reported on an annual report which is required by the Accreditation Review Council.

**DEVELOPMENT AND MODIFICATION OF PLAN**

The program director, faculty and clinical coordinator will be involved with the review and revision of the plan. Thereafter, the effectiveness of the plan will be evaluated on an annual basis by the program director, the faculty, and the clinical coordinator. Recommendations for revisions will be reviewed and discussed by the group and revisions made per recommendations for which there is consensus.

Surgical Technology (ST) programs value the opinions of our graduates. The information provided in this survey is used to improve the quality of the program. Graduate survey return rate and graduate survey satisfaction rate are two of the program outcomes reported to the institution’s Program Advisory Committee and on the program’s Annual Accreditation Report. Thank you for completing and returning this important survey.

Name of Institution Graduate’s Name Graduation Date

**Please select one response from the KEY below and circle the corresponding number at the end of each question. KEY**: **0**=Does Not Apply, **1**=Not Satisfied, **2**=Slightly Satisfied, **3**=Satisfied, **4**=Very Satisfied, **5**=Extremely Satisfied **Theory Course/s**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided by the program in both health and technological sciences (e.g., anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, pathophysiology, microbiology, pharmacology,  anesthesia, electricity, information technology, and robotics)? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. How satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided by |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| the program in perioperative case management for both the sterile |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| and non-sterile roles (e.g., principles of asepsis, patient preparation, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| safety considerations, disinfection, sterilization, etc.)? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. How satisfied are you with the program resources associated with |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| your lectures (e.g., classroom facilities, computer resources, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| instructional reference materials, models, etc.)? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Laboratory Course/s** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. How satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided by |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| the program for surgical laboratory skills and clinical setting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| preparation in both the sterile and non-sterile roles (e.g., scrubbing, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| gowning, gloving, case preparation, prepping, draping, mock surgical |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| procedures, cumulative practicum, etc.)? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. How satisfied are you with the program resources associated with |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| your labs (e.g., lab facilities, supplies both disposable and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| non-disposable, instrumentation, equipment, etc.) ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Clinical Course/s** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. How satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided by |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| the program to obtain surgical case experience and meet surgical |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| case requirement guidelines as defined by the Association of Surgical |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Technologists *Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology*? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. How satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided by the program |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| for professionalism (e.g., employability skills, communication, teamwork, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| accountability, flexibility, functioning under pressure, physical environment, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| healthcare organization/management, and all hazards preparation)? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# General Questions

1. How satisfied are you with the program’s frequency of evaluation?

(e.g., quizzes, exams, laboratory evaluations, clinical evaluations)? 0 1 2 3 4 5

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the instructional opportunities provided

by the program to prepare you for the national CST Exam? 0 1 2 3 4 5

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the learning opportunities provided

by the program to prepare you for entry-level employment? 0 1 2 3 4 5

Please comment on areas above where you were less than satisfied and/or on how the program can improve the overall quality of its surgical technology educational program.

**Current Employment Status** (please select only one status by checking or *clicking* the appropriate box ☐)

1. ☐Employed as surgical technologist.

Employer:

1. ☐Employed in a healthcare-related field but not as surgical technologist.

Employer:

1. ☐Not employed as surgical technologist or in a healthcare-related field.
2. ☐Continuing higher education - (please list state, institution name and degree being pursued)
3. Date this survey was completed
4. Graduate’s email address
5. Signature of person completing the survey
6. Graduate’s primary contact phone number



