Credentialing Exam and Employment Rates
Our program consistently surpasses the national benchmarks in categories measured by the national accreditor, including job placement, graduate and employer satisfaction rates, and national certification pass rates. The National Certification Exam Pass Rate for the Class of 2017 is 100 percent. In recognition of five years of achieving a 100 percent pass rate, the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting awarded the Surgical Technology Program a Certificate of Excellence in 2015. Each year since 2015 the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Surgical Technology Program students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Certification Exam.

Application and Admission
The application and materials deadline for August Dual Enrollment is February 1. Successful applicants have above average grades in all required high school and/or college coursework, favorable references, satisfactory knowledge and technical skills, and demonstrate successful performance during the interview process. Applicants must document a minimum GPA of 2.5. The most recent college or high school GPA is used in the decision process. For additional details about the admissions process, please refer to the School’s webpage for the Selective Admissions Policy at https://reading.towerhealth.org/academics/health-sciences/school-policies/

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences operates without distinction to age, race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or economic means.

Contact Us
To request more information or to set up a campus visit, please contact us at:
Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 16052, Reading, PA 19612-6052
484-628-0100
https://reading.towerhealth.org/academics/health-sciences/school-policies/
RHSHS@towerhealth.org

As an Anesthesiologist, I see the role of Surgical Technologists going beyond handing instruments to the surgeon. It is a role that demands commitment with integrity and serving others with joy. Choosing Surgical Technology as a profession is an opportunity to be empowered and to empower others: working as a surgical team to be gentle but powerful influence in our healthcare system.

– Ronald Reiter, DMD (Doctor of Medical Dentistry)
CCEMTP Critical Care EMT Paramedic
About the Profession

Surgical technology is an exciting and interesting healthcare career that is vital to the surgical team. A Surgical Technologist is a healthcare professional who is skilled in the theory and technical practice of surgery.

Surgical Technologist

A Surgical Technologist is a critical member of the operative team. As a member, they assist in the conduct of the operation and facilitate the delivery of surgical care. They are experts in the field of surgical technology instrumentation. Surgical Technologists are responsible for thinking ahead to maximize efficiency and minimize unnecessary time for the patient under anesthesia. Independently and collectively, all members of the surgical team, including Surgical Technologists are trained to provide the best care possible before, during, and after surgery.

A Surgical Technologist may be employed in a variety of settings including a hospital operating room, an ambulatory surgery center, a physician’s office, or in some dental offices where outpatient surgery is performed. Surgical technologists may also find employment managing a central sterile processing department, working for an insurance company, or working for a surgical equipment firm as a sales representative for surgical supplies and equipment.

Employment of Surgical Technologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016-2026 faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries. In addition, the increased number of aging people in the population is expected to increase the need for surgical technologists. (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm)


Clinical and Simulation Experience

Through structured clinical experiences, surgical technology students serve as first and second scrub through a variety of surgical procedures in all surgical specialties at the Reading HealthPlex. The 476,000 square foot Reading HealthPlex for Surgical & Patient Care contains one of the most technologically advanced surgical centers in the region with 24 surgical suites, including six hybrid-capable operating rooms and eight minor procedure rooms.

In preparation for clinical, students are provided with an opportunity to practice their skills in a non-threatening simulated learning environment through the use of state-of-the-art equipment, simulation scenarios, interactive learning, and instruction lead by experienced faculty at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.

To the non-medical community, the Operating Room is a frightening place, full of unfamiliar equipment, sounds and smells, and staffed with people in strange dress with masks and odd headgear. The typical patient arrives with much anxiety, fear, and nervousness. The surgical technologist plays an important role in calming the patient by exhibiting a caring attitude and confidence in his or her ability to properly conduct their duties assisting the surgeon. This assures the patient that they are among a competent, compassionate, skilled, and caring team, and confidence and relaxation quickly occur.

– William Meek, Patient

I interact with Surgical Technologists on a daily basis. They must demonstrate patience, confidence and adaptability at all times. Surgical Technologists are experts in their field and are the glue that holds the surgical team together to achieve improved patient outcomes.

– Megan Pietrowski, OR RN

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Accreditation

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Surgical Technology Program is nationally accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). CAAHEP can be contacted directly at: 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 151, Clearwater, FL 33763 phone: 727-210-2350, fax: 727-210-2354

The Surgical Technology Program offers a 20-month Dual Enrollment Program in collaboration with Alvernia University. With Dual Enrollment Admission, students will be simultaneously enrolled in the hospital-based Surgical Technology Program offered at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences and Alvernia University’s Associate of Science degree. Dual Enrollment is structured to provide a seamless career mobility pathway while providing our graduates with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to sit for national certification examination. Qualified graduates will be eligible to receive the following credentials: 
Diploma in Surgical Technology
Associate of Science Degree from Alvernia University

The Program is designed to provide theoretical knowledge and hands-on application through rigorous clinical experiences. Classes and clinical experiences are held Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Surgical technology has afforded me the opportunity to not only deepen my understanding, but to interact with real people, having been given a chance to serve them and make a difference in their lives.

– Lisa Henne, CST

I was astounded at the amount of knowledge I took away from my educational experiences. As a novice healthcare professional, I found the role very daunting at first. As time went on and as I became an important part of the surgical team, I started to see how others depended on me to provide a safe and caring environment. Surgical Technology is a challenging and rewarding profession.

– Jordan Wagner, CST

Certification

The Surgical Technology Program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences provides graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to sit for the national certification examination in surgical technology. Moreover, our program is one of a few programs nationwide in which students will earn a certificate in robotic surgery upon completion of the program.

Surgical technologists are a critical member of the operative team. They assist in the conduct of the operation and facilitate the delivery of surgical care. As critical members of the surgical team, they have a very beneficial impact on the health of the community. Each time I work with the surgical techs, a patient’s outcome is improved.

– Uday Dasika, MD