

HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

Program Overview

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences' (RHSHS) 20-month Surgical Technology program leads to a diploma in Surgical Technology. The RHSHS Surgical Technology Program provides the opportunity for students to be dually enrolled at Alvernia University. In addition to earning a Diploma in Surgical Technology from RHSHS, students will also earn an Associate in Science Degree from Alvernia University. Upon completion of the RHSHS Surgical Technology Program, graduates are eligible to sit for the Surgical Technologist National Certification Exam from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Qualified graduates will be eligible to receive the following credentials:

- Diploma in Surgical Technology
- Associate of Science Degree from Alvernia University



Dual Enrollment with Alvernia University

The Dual Enrollment 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. The liberal arts courses are taught by Alvernia University faculty. These courses provide students with a well-rounded background as well as meet the requirements for the Associate of Science degree from Alvernia University. This Surgical Technology Program is one of only a few programs nationwide in which you will earn a certificate in robotic surgery. Our faculty-to-student ratio is 1:5 in the skills laboratory and there are a significant number of hands-on clinical hours which enable you to experience a large number and type of surgical procedures.

Complete Credit Breakdown

- 40 Surgical technology credits
- 30 General education credits
- Total: 70 credits



Scan the QR code to learn more about the programs we offer at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.



[RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org](https://www.RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org)



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

The Surgical Technology Program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences offers students exceptional classroom and clinical experiences in preparation for their technical role on surgical teams with focus on the human body, patient care, surgical specialties, and technology.

Career Mobility

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 7 percent between now and 2029. Reference: United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Outlook.

Graduates looking to advance their professional skills can pursue Alvernia University's Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Science Program. Courses are offered in blended and online formats to allow our graduates to maintain work hours while earning their advanced degree.

Accreditation

The RHSHS Surgical Technology Program is nationally accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational 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:
9355 - 113th St. N, #7709 Seminole, FL 33775
Phone: 727-210-2350, Fax: 727-210-2354

Program Effectiveness Data

For more information on pass rates and program effectiveness data. Go to <https://reading.towerhealth.org/programs/surgical-technology/program-outcomes/>.



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FAQ



What does a Surgical Technologist do?

Surgical Technologists are allied healthcare professionals that make sure the operating room is ready for surgical procedures and ensure all equipment and instruments are ready for surgery. They are responsible for preparing the sterile field, handling instruments, and retracting tissue during the operation, as well as, counting surgical instruments and supplies. They provide patient care before, during, and after the procedure.

In addition to the responsibilities in the operating room, surgical technologists can also be employed in sterile processing departments. Surgical Technologists care for instrumentation by cleaning and reprocessing instrumentation for the sterilization process.

What roles will I learn in this program?

Students will learn the role of first scrub, second scrub, and assistant circulator. While participating in clinical practice, students are always supported by an on-site clinical instructor and experienced clinical preceptors.

As the first scrub, students learn a multitude of surgical procedures. Students will learn the anatomy and pathophysiology associated with each procedure. They will learn each surgery's steps, supplies, and instruments needed. Students participate in skills lab simulations and mock surgery procedures to prepare them for clinical practice.

During clinical practice, students will participate as the first scrub in over 100 surgical procedures in a variety of

specialties. As the first scrub students will prepare the sterile field, hand instruments during surgery, and perform surgical counts of instruments and supplies.

The second scrub students will retract tissue and maintain the sterility of the surgical environment.

In the assistant circulator role, students will learn patient care during a multitude of procedures. They will learn how to prepare the operating room for each surgical procedure. They will learn how to properly position the patient and prepare the patient's skin for surgical procedures. Students will also learn how to take a patient's vital signs and other patient care responsibilities such as urinary catheter insertion.

What are the class sizes?

Each class has a maximum of 10 students. The program has a 5:1 student: instructor ratio.

Where do Surgical Technology clinicals take place?

Clinical practice takes place at Reading Hospital, Pottstown Hospital, Phoenixville Hospital, and Penn State Health St. Joseph's Medical Center.

What specialties will I participate in during clinical?

Over 900 hours of clinical experience in general, gynecologic, genitourinary, plastic, oral, maxillofacial, peripheral vascular, thoracic, open heart, robotic, neurology, orthopedic, labor & delivery, and endoscopy surgery and procedures.

Will I have simulation experiences?

The Surgical Technology Simulation Laboratory provides the student with a simulated clinical setting in which to practice operating room skills and procedures. This setting enables the student to become efficient in basic to advanced skills through the use of state-of-the-art equipment, clinical simulation, interactive learning, and instruction by experienced faculty. This learning environment reinforces classroom instruction and helps to prepare students for clinical patient care assignments. The lab is available to students from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.

Do you offer Shadow experiences to see if surgical technology is a good fit for me before applying?

Yes. Individuals interested in finding out more about careers related to the Operating Room will have the opportunity to shadow a Surgical Technologist in the Operating Room environment during a surgical procedure.

Shadowing experiences take place at Reading Hospital from 8 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Program Requirements

- Be at least 16 years of age or older.
- If under age 18, the parent/guardian consent form must be signed.
- Possess a photo identification.
- Provide proof of current Influenza vaccination.
- Provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

To apply, please visit the Surgical Technology Shadow Program Weblink: <https://reading.towerhealth.org/programs/surgical-technology/shadow-program/>

What are the Admissions Requirements?

Students seeking admission to the program must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States or provide documentation of permanent residency or working status.
2. Have a high school diploma or state-authorized examination (e.g., General Educational Development Certificate (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)). Home-schooled students must have a diploma from an accredited home school association or have met requirements for the GED or other state authorized examination. The school does not admit applicants based upon the ability-to-benefit testing process.
3. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or greater in high school or post-secondary coursework is required for all applicants and candidates for enrollment. The most recent GPA will be used in the admission decision.
4. Have high school course work that includes a minimum of 16 units with an earned grade of "C" or better in the subjects listed below:
 - English: 4 units
 - Social Studies: 3 units
 - Mathematics: 3 units, including Algebra I
 - Science: 3 units, including Biology
5. Submit two reference forms from teachers, guidance counselors, employers, supervisors or others. Healthcare professionals must submit one reference from the current or most recent healthcare employer.
6. Successful completion of an interview. The program director will review completed applications and select qualified students for the interview step. This interview process may begin in January and will conclude when the class has been filled.

Admitted students must meet all post-acceptance requirements by specified deadlines. We strongly encourage our applicants to review the current selective admissions policy at: <https://reading.towerhealth.org/app/files/public/03707a5d-e1cc-47be-9e6e-1173fe179ede/300%20Selective%20Admissions%20SHS%202023%20-3-27.pdf>.

When is the application deadline?

For August enrollment, the application deadline is June 1, or when qualified student capacity has been reached.

Is an interview required?

Yes. Qualified candidates may be considered for an interview.

Can I Transfer Coursework?

In alignment with our collegiate vendor, Alvernia University, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences does not grant credit for online courses in laboratory science for major science courses, including Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, Microbiology, and Physics. Our policy prohibits transfer of biology/science credits for all courses (didactic and laboratory) that are not delivered face to face in a classroom with a teaching with professor present. Online courses may be labeled by a college in a variety of terms including, but not limited to, "online", "distance education", "asynchronous", or "hybrid" formats, all of which are nontransferable.

Do you provide financial aid?

For information on current tuition and fees, please go to <https://reading.towerhealth.org/financial-information/>. Resources and financial payment options are available by contacting the Financial Aid Office at 484-628-0106 or Student Accounts at 484-628-0102.

How do I get started?

We welcome visits through formal events and personal appointments. To register for an event or to schedule an appointment with an admissions representative, please call 484-628-0100 or email: RHSHS@towerhealth.org. Directions to our school are located at <https://reading.towerhealth.org/admissions/rhshs-campus-map/>.

Questions

For additional information, call us at 484-628-0100. We look forward to helping you reach your educational goals.

