



READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FAQ SHEET

What is Surgical Technology?

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 technologists are responsible for:

- creating and maintaining the sterile environment in the operating room,
- handing instruments and supplies to the surgeon during the surgery,
- assisting the operating room team with the surgical procedure, and
- being knowledgeable about the surgery being performed.

Is the Surgical Technology Program Accredited?

Yes, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences (RHSHS) Surgical Technology Program has been accredited since 1997. Accreditation provides the student with reassurance that the program meets rigorous educational standards and makes them qualified to take the national certification examination. Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Surgical Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (www.arcstsa.org).

CAAHEP is located at 9355 - 113th St. N, #7709, Seminole, FL 33775. Phone: 727-210-2350, Fax: 727-210-2354.

Career Opportunities

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.

About the Program

- The Surgical Technology program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, located in West Reading, PA, has been a presence in Berks County since 1969.
- We have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) since 1997.
- Students learn first scrub, second scrub, and the assistant circulator role. Students will participate in more than 100 surgical procedures.
- Students in our program learn the various roles of a Surgical Technologist with the constant support of experienced instructors and preceptors.
- Students participate in classroom instruction, simulation in our state-of-the-art skills lab, and over 900 hours of clinical practice during their internship.
- Upon completion of our 20-month program, students graduate with an Associate Degree in Science and a Diploma in Surgical Technology.
- Students also earn DaVinci Robotic certification during our program!

Dual Enrollment Affiliation with Alvernia University

To assist students in earning an academic degree, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences has entered into an affiliation agreement with Alvernia University. Through a dual-affiliation agreement, students who enroll in the hospital-based Surgical Technology program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences will simultaneously enroll in Alvernia University's Associate of Science degree program. Dually enrolled students who successfully complete all aspects of Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Surgical Technology curriculum are eligible to graduate with two awards, each conferred by their respective institution:

- a diploma in Surgical Technology from Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences; and,
- an Associate of Science from Alvernia University.

Program Length

The duration of the program is 20 consecutive months. New classes begin each fall term which starts at the end of August. The program is offered on a full-time basis. Instruction takes place between 6:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Certification Exam Pass Rate

The ST program has a 100 percent pass rate for the National Certification Examination (2011 through 2021). Our program is one of only a few programs nationally to achieve this milestone of excellence.

Shadow Program

Opportunities to shadow in the operating room are available year-round. Visit our website for more information and to apply.

Admission 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. *For high school students only* – SAT: 500 in each section; ACT composite of 19, essay score of 7 or higher. TOEFL paper-based score of 560 or internet-based score of 83. This requirement may be waived for applicants with earned college degrees. Exceptions to the SAT/ACT requirement will be considered on an individual basis.
6. 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.
7. 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/health-sciences/school-policies/>.

Financial Aid

Our Financial Aid Office can advise students on how to identify financial resources and funding options. Payment plans are available. For information on tuition and fees, please go to <https://reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/financial-information/tuition-and-fees/>.

Application Deadline

The deadline for completed applications is June 1 for August enrollment. To qualify, applicants must include all transcripts and two references.

For Further Information, Contact

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences
Admissions Office
P.O. Box 16052
Reading, PA 19612-6052
484-628-0100 or **RHSHS@towerhealth.org**
www.RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org



Reading Hospital
School of Health Sciences

READING HOSPITAL

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.