The Surgical Technology program is deeply committed to diversity and fostering an inclusive environment that represents the diverse population of healthcare professionals. We value the uniqueness and potential of every learner and strive to create a culture of respect and equality, welcoming all students, including individuals with disabilities. We encourage students with disabilities to disclose their needs and seek accommodations to fully engage in our program. All disability-related conversations and requests are handled through a confidential process to protect your privacy. If you believe you require accommodation after reviewing the Technical Standards, please contact the Student Accessibility Services Office as early as possible. Given the complexities of clinical-based programs, additional time may be needed to implement accommodations effectively.

For more information, visit the Student Accessibility Services webpage Student Accessibility Services | Quinsigamond
Student Accessibility Services, call (508) 854-4471, email SAS@qcc.mass.edu, or visit room 246A located in the Administration Building, 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

Essential Role of Surgical Technologists

Surgical technologists work in fast-paced, sterile environments within hospitals and surgical centers, playing a vital role in patient care. The job requires physical endurance, as they often stand for long periods, lift heavy equipment/instrumentation sets and assist with patient transfer. Mental acuity is crucial; they must manage multiple tasks under pressure while ensuring patient safety and effective communication with the surgical team. Their hours can vary, often requiring flexibility for shifts, including evenings and weekends. This profession offers a rewarding opportunity to collaborate with healthcare professionals and make significant contributions to surgical procedures and patient outcomes. While these responsibilities reflect the standards for employment in various facilities, they are not conditions for admission to the program.

The following technical standards define the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities necessary for candidates/students to successfully complete the QCC Associate of Science in the Surgical Technology Program. All students, with or without reasonable accommodations must meet these requirements upon entering the program.

Physical Standards

The candidate/student should possess the ability to perform essential tasks related to

patient care and the handling of surgical technology equipment, supplies and instrumentation. This includes the capability to lift up to 50 pounds to assist in moving patients and instrument trays. Candidates/students will be required to adjust equipment and administer emergency care, such as CPR, as needed. They may be required to remain still for extended periods, and adaptive techniques will be explored to facilitate these actions. The candidate/student will be required to assist with positioning and manipulating patients, whether conscious or unconscious, to ensure that all students can effectively engage in patient care.

In addition to lifting and adjusting equipment, candidates/students should be able to crouch to pick up stools and equipment, reach up to 5½ feet to attach plugs, retrieve supplies, and handle various sizes of instruments. The ability to grasp syringes, instruments, and sterile supplies while standing or sitting for prolonged periods during surgical procedures is essential. Maintaining focus during these tasks is important, and accommodations regarding nourishment and restroom breaks will be flexible, allowing students to manage shifts that may last up to 6 hours or more comfortably.

Candidates /students will be required to feel the temperature of irrigating solutions and push or pull video equipment towers, and case carts as part of their responsibilities. Navigating the environment to retrieve supplies is expected. Additionally, they will be required to manipulate knobs and dials associated with surgical equipment, assembling and disassembling instruments efficiently. Audible signal from alarms and verbal communication must be detected from distances up to ten feet, along with the visual acuity required to load fine sutures onto needle holders, detect color changes, and read various types of information. Clear communication with surgeons and team members is critical to ensuring patient safety and maintaining an effective workflow in the surgical setting.

MENTAL/ATTITUDINAL STANDARDS

The candidate/student must embrace essential mental and attitudinal standards that are vital for success in healthcare environments. The candidate/student are expected to function safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations, maintaining composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously. Candidates/students will be required to prioritize responsibilities and utilize critical thinking and sound judgment is crucial for navigating the complexities of patient care. Additionally, candidates/students should display attitudes and actions that align with the ethical standards of the profession, demonstrating a commitment to integrity and professionalism in all interactions in the

clinical setting.

Punctuality and reliability are key traits for success; candidates/students must report to clinical as scheduled and remain alert to their surroundings, and ready to respond to potential emergencies. The capacity to perform multiple concurrent tasks diligently is essential, along with integrating information to make informed decisions based on aseptic techniques and professional standards. Being conscientious, orderly, and resilient prepares students to handle the demands of high-pressure environments, particularly in operating rooms. The student will be required to also apply rational problem-solving approaches and must memorize and track surgical supplies and utilize anticipation skills during procedures.

Furthermore, the candidate/student in a surgical technology program is expected to comprehend, integrate, and apply didactic concepts in clinical settings. This includes understanding physiological measurements related to surgical procedures, performing necessary mathematical computations, and gathering and interpreting relevant data. Candidates/students will be required to identify cause-effect relationships in surgical scenarios and evaluate surgical instruments and equipment for proper functionality and safety. Candidate/student will be required to accurately recognize biohazard fluids and materials.

Flexibility and the ability to improvise in various situations are critical, as surgical environments can be unpredictable. These skills will prepare candidates/students to effectively respond to the dynamic challenges they will encounter in the operating room, ensuring they are well-equipped to support surgical teams and provide optimal patient care.

COMMUNICATION/COMPREHENSION STANDARDS

In applying to an allied health program, students must demonstrate strong communication skills, both verbally and in written form. This proficiency is essential for effectively conveying healthcare information and interacting with surgeons, staff, patients, and their families. Clear and accurate communication is vital to ensuring patient safety and facilitating collaboration within the healthcare team.

Additionally, candidates/students are expected to exhibit social skills that foster positive interactions with a diverse range of individuals, including surgeons, patients, families, coworkers, and supervisors from various cultural backgrounds. Attributes such as respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, and discretion are crucial for building rapport

and maintaining a supportive environment. By cultivating these interpersonal skills, students will be well-prepared to thrive in the dynamic and collaborative setting of an allied health profession, contributing to high-quality patient care and effective team dynamics.