

# SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT

## Campus Location

Lemley Campus, Health Sciences Center

## Occupational Focus

The Surgical First Assistant program is an advanced level course for experienced operating room professionals who wish to become surgical assistants. As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the surgical assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, and other intraoperative technical functions that will assist the surgeon to carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. This role will vary based on the surgical operation, specialty area, and type of facility. Preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative skills performed under direct supervision of the surgeon may include the following: positioning the patient, preparing the skin, providing visualization of the operative site, utilizing appropriate techniques to assist with hemostasis, participating in volume replacement or auto-transfusion techniques as appropriate, utilizing appropriate techniques to assist with closure of body planes, selecting and applying appropriate wound dressings, and providing assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue.

For information concerning working conditions, physical requirements, employment and job outlook please refer to the 2008-09 Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.

## Who Can Attend?

Adults

## Scheduling Information

Adult students - 650 class hours  
On-line -- flexible schedule based on student needs  
Clinical hours will vary  
Check with Admissions Office at 918.828.5260 for start dates.

## Entrance Requirements

- Adults students only (age 18 or older)
- Must possess a working knowledge of operating room fundamentals
- Must be a CST (Certified Surgical Technologist) within 8 weeks of Surgical First Assistant program attendance, CNOR (Certified Nurse Operating Room), or PA-C (Physicians Assistant - Certified).
- Must be a graduate of a CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) accredited Surgical Technology program or of a Military medical training with surgical experience.
- Must have verifiable/documented current operating room scrub experience (minimum of 30 General Surgery, 20 Orthopedic Surgery, and 15 Gynecological Surgery cases) or currently working in the capacity of a first assistant.

## Additional Requirements

- High School Diploma or GED  
Prior to the start of the clinical practicum, students must:
- Undergo a criminal background check including sex offender registration as required by the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act that requires individuals providing care to children under the age of 18 to be free of any criminal history that would indicate a potential for violent abuse against another person. There is a \$15 fee for adults.
- Provide verification of immunizations through vaccination records, titer (blood test) results, or declination statements. A list of specific immunizations may be obtained through the Health Sciences Center by calling 828-1216.
- Have a current American Heart Association CPR for the Healthcare Provider card -or- a current American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer card.
- Provide transportation to clinical sites.
- Adult students must pay a \$81 liability insurance fee for clinicals.

## Career Majors

### Surgical First Assistant - 650 Hours\*

Students in this major will learn the legal, ethical, moral and professional responsibilities of a surgical first assistant. They will study the disease process including specific types of pathologies associated with body systems and the impact of microorganism in the surgical environment including the risks to patients. Students will also study preoperative and intraoperative effects of drugs used in surgery, wound management techniques, suturing techniques, and perioperative care. They will also learn how to recognize certain complications and how to respond. There will also be a clinical portion to this major and students should obtain certification from National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) as a certified first assistant.

\*Career major, courses and hours are subject to change without notice

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## Tuition

Adult - \$2.50/hour for 300 hours\*  
Tuition is based on 300 program hours and 350 clinical hours at no additional cost to student.

*\*Tuition subject to change without notice.*

## Books/Supplies

Lab Fee - \$250  
Books approximately \$275 (subject to change)  
Book list available upon request

## College Credit

College credit is available for the majority of Tulsa Tech's full-time programs through Rogers State University, Oklahoma State University-IT or Tulsa Community College. Advanced standing credit may also be granted for some of our programs. The number of hours varies depending on the program length, the college granting the credit, and the student's plan of study. Check with your Tulsa Tech counselor for more information.

## Credentials/Industry Certifications

The Surgical First Assistant program at Tulsa Tech is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in collaboration with the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC-STSA) for both on-line (distance education) and face-to-face programs. Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for the first assistant certification exam sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), formerly the LCC-ST (Liaison Council on Certification). Those who pass the certification exam may use the credential Certified First Assistant (CFA™).

## Tulsa-Area Salary

\$15.00 - \$22.00/hour

## Financial Aid

Scholarships are available for eligible students. Call 918.828.5280 or email [financialaid@tulsatech.org](mailto:financialaid@tulsatech.org) for detailed information.

## Application Process

Adult application packets are available in the counseling offices on each Tulsa Tech campus. For any questions regarding the application process, contact Tulsa Tech Admissions and Enrollment office at 918.828.5260, email [admissions@tulsatech.org](mailto:admissions@tulsatech.org) or check out our website at [www.tulsatech.edu](http://www.tulsatech.edu).

## Courses by Career Majors

**Surgical First Assistant - 650 Hours\***  
Surgical First Assistant Introduction  
Surgical First Assistant Advanced Pathology  
Surgical First Assistant Advanced Microbiology  
Surgical First Assistant Pharmacology & Anesthesia  
Surgical First Assistant Bioscience  
Surgical First Assistant Equipment & Skills  
Surgical First Assistant Surgical Specialty  
Surgical First Assistant Surgical Complications  
Surgical First Assistant Certification Review  
Surgical First Assistant Clinical

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