

College of DuPage

Surgical Technology

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Program Application Packet
Fall 2026

Application Deadline: August 3, 2026



This program begins in both the Fall & Spring semesters with a twice a year application cycle.

Note: Please see specific program registration or admission packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/ source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed.

Surgical Technology Program Admission Requirements

The following general education and prerequisite courses are required for admission to the COD Surgical Technology Program. No course substitutions will be allowed. All courses must be completed with a "C" or better. Courses are given merit points based on grades received.

Prerequisite Courses Needed Prior to Program Start

The more courses you complete prior to application deadline date, the more merit points you receive
Courses below can be taken during the Summer 2026 semester, however, courses that are 'in progress' will NOT be calculated into the MERIT scoring at application deadline.

Merit Points: Letter Grade A = 4, Letter Grade B = 3, Letter Grade C = 2

- **CSPD1111:** Central Sterile Processing and Distribution (3 credits) Within 5 years of application deadline (8/3/2021 – 8/3/2026)
- **CSPD 1211:** Central Sterile Processing & Distribution Practicum (3 credits) Within 5 years of application deadline (8/3/2021 – 8/3/2026) *Must reach out to clinicalrequirements@cod.edu for registration details
- **SURGT1001:** Surgical Asepsis and Sterile Technique (4 credits) -Within 3 years of application deadline (8/3/2023 – 8/3/2026)
- **SURGT 1000:** Ethical Considerations in Healthcare (3 credits)
- **HLTHS 1110:** Biomedical Terminology (3 credits)
- **ANAT 1551-or-1571** (4 credits) Within 5 years of application deadline (8/3/2021 – 8/3/2026)
- **ANAT 1552-or-1572** (4 credits) Within 5 years of application deadline (8/3/2021 – 8/3/2026)
- **MATH 1100** or higher (3 credits) NOTE: One extra merit point will be given for completion of MATH 1102 or higher with grade of "C" or better
 - NOTE: As of Fall 2027 Admission, MATH 1102 or higher will be required

General Education Courses Required to Graduate

Recommended potential candidates complete as many, or all, of the courses below prior to program start

****All courses must earn a "C" or better.**

Merit Points: Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0

- ENGL 1101 (3 credits)
- Social & Behavioral Science Course (3 credits)
- Speech 1100 Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits)

****If students are accepted into the fall cohort and use financial aid to pay for courses, take one of the courses above during the summer semester with SURGT1500. If you do not take an extra course in summer, you will only have 4 credits, and 6 credits are required for financial aid**

IMPORTANT Dates & Information

- First week of August - All applicants will be notified of the Admission Committees' decision via e-mail.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** – **Mandatory Orientation** will take place on **Tuesday, August 18th 11am – 12pm in HSC 2123** for students who are officially accepted into the Surgical Technology program.
- For students accepted into the Surgical Technology program, class begins on August 24th.

College of DuPage
Surgical Technology Program
Admission Checklist

All students applying for the Surgical Technology program must have the necessary paperwork completed. It is the student's responsibility to oversee this process. Begin the application process as soon as possible. Admission into College of DuPage Surgical Technology program is based on a total Merit Score which encompasses grades in the pre-requisite category, and General Education courses completed required to receive an AAS in Surgical Technology. Program prerequisites MUST BE completed by admission deadline.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials listed below have been completed and received by the designated office, by the application deadline.

NOTE: Admission Committees for all Health Science programs has the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill the essential functions as described.

1. **Schedule an appointment** with a **Health Program Advisor** by calling (630) 942-2259. The Health Program Advisor will develop an Academic Plan to ensure you complete all prerequisites in the correct order.
2. **Health Insurance proof:**
Students are expected to provide proof of a **Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan** prior to the start of the program. The comprehensive health insurance plan must cover you **throughout the length of your clinical experience**, which in most cases, consists of the entire length of the program. If you are in need of Health Insurance, please see important dates below and visit <https://cod.studentbenefitplans.com/bpg-insurance-individual/>.

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1st – January 15th- Open Enrollment

If you will need health insurance ANYTIME in 2026, you must apply during the current open enrollment period.

December 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start January 1st, 2026.

January 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start February 1st, 2026.

After January 15th – enrollment is closed.

If you miss open enrollment but have a qualifying life event, you can apply during a [**Special Enrollment Period**](#).

While we **cannot** guarantee your official acceptance into the program, you need to be aware that there is short timeframe of when you are able to purchase a Health Insurance plan. The purpose of this step is to make you aware and that the time to research and purchase is **NOW**. Purchasing health insurance outside of this timeframe will take months and may prohibit your admittance into the Program. **NOTE:** Obtaining Health Insurance is NOT an application requirement but it is a requirement to be in the program.

3. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable \$20 [College of DuPage General Admissions Application online](#)**. **This application is for general admissions to College of DuPage only.** After applying to the college you will be issued a cod email. All communications will come to your COD email account.
4. To ensure that all of your eligible credits are evaluated towards the registration requirements, turn in ALL official Transcripts from institutions that you have attended. Immediately:

-Submit your official transcript(s) to College of DuPage, [Office of Student Records](#). If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.

-Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Log into [inside.COD.edu](#), click on 'myACCESS for Students', select 'Academic Profile'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under 'Unofficial Transcripts'.

*NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must be evaluated. Please visit the following website <https://www.cod.edu/records/international-transcript-evaluation.html> for details.

5. Complete the "**Prerequisite Courses**" as instructed, found on Page 2, with a "C" or better.
6. Complete the **non-refundable \$50 Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application** online by logging into the student portal at <https://inside.cod.edu>
 - Click on myACCESS for Students
 - Click on the Health Careers Applications link
 - Select Health Careers Application
 - Select Surgical Technology Degree when asked "What selective enrollment program are you applying to?"

Once the application is submitted, you may not change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer.

7. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the Office of Student Registration Services by e-mailing to registration@cod.edu by the program application deadline date. You MUST send from your @dupage.edu e-mail address.

** If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.

** Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.

The Admissions Committee will meet the day after the application deadline date. All applicants will be notified of the Admission Committees' decision via e-mail during the **first week of August**.

Applications are accepted for one academic year (Fall-Spring). Applicants not selected for Fall will carry over to Spring cohort of same academic year, where merit scores will be rated along with additional submitted Spring applications. If an applicant is not selected for Fall or Spring of the academic year, they must re-apply the following Fall, pay the \$50 non-refundable Health Career application fee, and submit any/all supporting documents as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable).

"All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to applicants. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports."

Surgical Technology Sample Merit Evaluation
(Subject to Change)

Applicant: _____ Student ID #: _____ Date: _____

Residency Verification Form

Yes or No (circle)

Prerequisite Merit Points

A. Anatomy and Physiology I (1551 or 1571)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

B. Anatomy and Physiology II (1552 or 1572)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

C. Surgical Asepsis and Sterile Technique (SURGT1001)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

D. Math (Any course 1100 and above)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

E. Math 1102 or higher completion

1 pt = yes; 0 pts = no _____

F. Biomedical Terminology (HLTHS1110)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

G. Ethical Considerations in the Healthcare Industry (SURGT1000)

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts. _____

H. Central Sterile Processing and Distribution (CSPD1111)

Current CBSPDT or CRCST certification = 4 pts.

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts.

(Students will receive merit points for either certification proof or grade completion. Students will not receive points for both).

I. Central Sterile Processing and Distribution Practicum (CSPD1211)

*Currently employed as a Sterile Processing Tech (send proof from employer to hsadmissions@cod.edu) = 4 pts.

"A" = 4 pts., "B" = 3 pts., "C" = 2 pts.

(Students will receive merit points for either employment proof or grade completion. Students will not receive points for both).

J. Previously admitted Surgical Technology student within a year of application date (This includes students who were admitted into the program in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026).

Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0 _____

K. Students who have proof of College of DuPage Central Sterile Processing Distribution Technician Certification with Office of Student Records.

Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0 _____

General Education Courses Required to Graduate

*Recommended potential candidates complete as many, or all, of the courses below prior to program start

A. ENGLI 1101 (3 credits)

Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0 _____

B. Social & Behavioral Science Course (3 credits)

Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0 _____

C. Speech 1100 Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits)

Completed = 1, Not Yet Completed = 0 _____

Total Points: _____

NOTE: In the event of a tie, grades for SURGT 1001 and ANAT will be compared.

Suggested Education Plans for Surgical Technology AAS (64 credits)

This suggested education plan is an efficient way to complete your surgical technology degree at the College of DuPage. Students should complete Math and Reading/Writing Placement tests prior to start. ***BLUE text indicates semesters after admission to the Surgical Technology cohort.**

FALL COHORT

SPRING COHORT

Fall 1st Semester (12 credits)

CSPD1111: Central Sterile Processing & Dist.(3cr)
SURGT1000: Ethical Considerations in Health(3cr)
CSPD1211: Cent. Ster. Proc. & Dist. Practicum(3cr)
HLTHS 1110 (3 credits)
***COD CSPD Certification Completion**

Spring 2nd Semester (13 credits)

ANAT 1551/1571 (4 credits)
Math 1100 or above (3 credits)
SPEEC1100 (3 credits)
ENGLI 1101 (3 credits)

Fall 3rd Semester (11 credits)

ANAT 1552/1572 (4 credits)
Social & Behavioral Science Course (3 credits)
SURGT1001: Surg. Asepsis & Sterile Tech. (4cr)

Spring 4th Semester (12 credits)

First 8 weeks
SURGT 1101: Surgical Health and Technological Sciences (3 credits)
SURGT 1102: Surgical Technology Skills (3 credits)

Second 8 weeks

SURGT 1201: Introduction to Surgical Technology (3 credits)
SURGT 1202: Surgical Technology Practicum I (3 credits)

Summer 5th Semester (6 credits)

SURGT 1301: Surgical Procedures I (3 credits)
SURGT 1302: Surgical Technology Practicum II (3 credits)

Fall 6th Semester (10 credits)

First 8 weeks
SURGT 1401: Surgical Procedures II (3 credits)
SURGT 1402: Surgical Technology Practicum III (3 credits)
Second 8 weeks
SURGT 1500: Professional Practice (4 credits)

Fall 1st Semester (13 credits)

CSPD1111: Central Sterile Processing & Dist.(3cr)
ANAT 1551/1571 (4 credits)
CSPD1211: Cent. Ster. Proc. & Dist. Practicum(3cr)
HLTHS 1110 (3 credits)

Spring 2nd Semester (14 credits)

ANAT 1552/1572 (4 credits)
SURGT1000: Ethical Considerations in Health(3cr)
***COD CSPD Certification Completion**
Math 1100 or above (3 credits)
SURGT1001: Surg. Asepsis & Sterile Tech. (4cr)

Fall 3rd Semester (15 credits)

First 8 weeks
SURGT 1101: Surgical Health and Technological Sciences (3 credits)
SURGT 1102: Surgical Technology Skills (3 credits)

Second 8 weeks

SURGT 1201: Introduction to Surgical Technology (3 credits)
SURGT 1202: Surgical Technology Practicum I (3 credits)
ENGLI 1101 (3 credits)

Spring 4th Semester (15 credits)

First 8 weeks
SURGT 1301: Surgical Procedures I (3 credits)
SURGT 1302: Surgical Technology Practicum II (3 credits)

Second 8 weeks

SURGT 1401: Surgical Procedures II (3 credits)
SURGT 1402: Surgical Technology Practicum III (3 credits)
Social & Behavioral Science Course (3 credits)

Summer 5th Semester (7 credits)

SURGT 1500: Professional Practice (4 credits)
SPEEC 1100 (3 credits)
**Minimum 6 credits must be taken to ensure financial aid coverage, save SPEEC 1100 for this semester if you are planning to receive financial aid.

Please see the following link to the [**Student Planning Worksheet for the Associate in Applied Science Degree**](#) for details.

Program Overview

The Surgical Technology program includes classroom, lab, and clinical experiences. Lecture is held all year using in class and online formats. Lab runs the first eight weeks of the first semester and includes all required skills for functioning in the operating room. Clinical begins the second eight weeks of the first semester and continues through three consecutive semesters. The clinical sites are selected for the student, requests are not granted, and students must provide their own transportation to and from the institution. Please note, students may have to travel up to an hour for their clinical rotation. **Students may also incur extra costs during the clinical rotations such as parking, transportation, fingerprinting, or clinical management software.**

Information about a career in Surgical Technology is available at: www.ast.org.

Essential Functions

You may be exposed to fumes, chemicals, cold, noise, radiation, blood/body fluids and infectious diseases while working as a surgical technologist. Please look carefully at the following Essential Functions for the operating room. These are physical, mental, and emotional characteristics that are required for employment in the operating room. Only you can decide if this career is right for you. It is better to recognize if a program is a right fit before committing to a career. Once admitted into the program, students are expected to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures of College of DuPage **and the affiliated clinical hospital sites**. The hospitals may have restrictions that are more prohibitive than the college; however, we are guests at the clinical sites and must follow all hospital guidelines. *Non-compliance with rules, regulations and procedures is a basis for **dismissal** from the program. The Health and Sciences Program Standards for Professional Conduct is available upon request and will be presented to the students upon their acceptance into the program.*

Gross Motor Skills:

- Move within confined spaces
- Maintain balance in multiple positions
- Reach above shoulders (e.g., adjust overhead lights)
- Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlet)
- Reach out front

Fine Motor Skills:

- Pick up objects with hands
- Grasp small objects with hands firm and slight pressure (ex. surgical instruments, sutures)
- Write with pen or pencil
- Key/type (e.g., use a computer)
- Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe)
- Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands)
- Squeeze with finger (e.g., eye dropper)
- Manual dexterity
- Finger dexterity
- Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers
- Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand foot (e.g., pumping soap dispenser and surgical scrub)

Physical Endurance:

- Stand for long periods of time from 2-4 hours
- Maintain same position for long periods of time
- Sustained repetitive movements
- Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours

Physical Strength:

- Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., carry instrument pans, position client, move equipment)
- Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., hold arm or leg)
- Lift 50 pounds (e.g., pick up a child, transfer client, bend to lift an infant or child)
- Carry equipment/supplies (e.g., lift instrument pans)
- Use upper body strength (e.g., retraction, physically restrain a client)
- Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguishers)

Hearing:

- Ability to hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g., person to person conversation, request for an instrument)
- Hear faint voices and body sounds (e.g., heartbeat)
- Ability to discriminate speech in presence of background noises
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., masks are worn in the operating room)

Visual:

- See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on monitor screen, identification of small needles)
- See objects up to 20 feet away
- Use depth perception
- Use peripheral vision
- Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies)
- See in darkened room (e.g., during endoscope procedures, eye surgery)

Environment:

- Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, chemical substances)
- Tolerate strong soaps
- Tolerate strong odors
- Exposure and tolerate unpleasant sights and sounds, electrical energy, solvents, grease, oils, slippery or uneven walking surfaces and excessive noises
- Tolerate working in confined spaces for extended periods of time
- Tolerate wearing protective equipment (e.g., mask, gown, gloves, glasses, laser, radiation)
- Tolerate working indoors
- Tolerate working in extreme temperatures

Emotional Stability:

- Establish professional relationships
- Adapt to changing environment/stress
- Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)
- Focus attention on task
- Cope with own emotions
- Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently
- Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief, anger, stress)
- Accept constructive feedback
- Accept responsibility for own actions

Interpersonal Skills:

- Establish rapport with individuals (e.g., surgeons, staff members and groups)
- Respect/value diversity in others
- Negotiate interpersonal conflict
- Demonstrate tolerance in working with others
- Function as part of a team

Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org/) (727) 210- 2350, accredits the Surgical Technology program offered at College of DuPage. College of DuPage is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-HLC), The Higher Learning Commission.

Program Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the Surgical Technology program is to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. The graduate will demonstrate competency to meet national certification requirements, provide skills that meet standard in patient care, and function as an essential member of the health care and operating room team with knowledge and skilled competence.

Program Outcomes

Surgical Technology Program graduates will:

- Correlate the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and microbiology to their role as a Surgical Technologist.

- Demonstrate a safe and professional level of practice and knowledge in their role as a Surgical Technologist.
- Acquire an understanding of the ethical, legal, moral, and medical values related to the patient and the surgical team during the perioperative experience.
- Correlate the elements, action, and use of medications and anesthetic agents used during the perioperative experience
- Implement safe practice techniques in regards to perioperative routines, patient transportation, positioning, and emergency procedures.
- Integrate principles of surgical asepsis as part of the perioperative experience.
- Accurately apply knowledge and skills of a professional Surgical Technologist to address the biopsychosocial needs of the surgical patient.
- Perform proficiently and competently as an entry-level surgical technologist in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains
- Value the professional attributes of the Surgical Technologist

Program Information Disclaimer

This Program information is published for that purpose only; however, the information in this packet is not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the Program. The Program reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, graduation requirements, fees and other charges, curriculum, course structure and content, and other such matters as may be within its control, notwithstanding any information set forth in this Program information packet in accordance with College of DuPage policies and procedures.

Priority for Admission

1. In-District applicants which includes:
 - In-District applicants who reside within Community College District 502
 - Applicants who are part of the **CAREER Consortium Agreement** (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
 - Applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
2. Out-of-District applicants (who are NOT part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement)

Student Email Policy

College of DuPage will send all official communications to you through your official COD email (dupage.edu). You will no longer be able to use a preferred email account. You do have the option to forward these communications to a personal email account if you wish.

Check your COD email weekly for important information like:

- Official COD communications
- Financial aid communications
- Petition to graduate
- Transfer credit evaluation
- Prerequisite proof Sensitive
- FERPA-related communications
- Transcript order
- Important messages from instructors

For more information on the student email policy go to:

<https://cod.edu/student-life/resources/information-technology/email/email-policy.html>

All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our Division website. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed and understand the policies and procedures. The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

Nursing & Health Sciences Division
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6599
Division Office (630) 942-8331
Fax (630)942-4222
www.cod.edu

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the College of DuPage Surgical Technology program. This admissions packet has been developed to provide you with a complete overview of our program including the process for admission.

If you should have further questions, please contact me at moorej2352@cod.edu. For more information and resource links, please visit <http://www.cod.edu/surgtech>.

Sincerely,

Jenny Cerpa

Jenny Cerpa, B.S., LPN, CST, CRCST
Surgical Technology Program Chair
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