CATAWBA VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2025 ADMISSION PACKET
Surgical Technology Program

⚠ Application & Requirements Deadline - **May 31, 2025**

⚠ Please allow 2 weeks to complete all application requirements.

It is the student's responsibility to monitor the completion of the Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR), whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere. CVCC reserves the right to change curriculum and admission requirements without prior notice. Applicants are responsible for completing admission requirements and ensuring all materials have been submitted by the deadline.

This packet provides information to assist you with the admission and selection process for the Surgical Technology program. For questions regarding the program, contact Sarah Hayes, Director of Surgical Technology, at (828) 327-7000 ext. 4771 or email **slynn257@cvcc.edu.** For questions regarding admission requirements, contact Student Services at (828) 327-7000 ext. 4216 or email **healthcare@cvcc.edu.**

What is a surgical technologist?

Surgical technologists work in the operating room helping to provide a safe, sterile environment and adding to the efficiency of the operating room team. Surgical technologists prepare surgical instruments and materials using sterile technique. Surgical technologists help surgeons during the surgical procedure with instruments and supplies.

How do I find information about Surgical Technology and employment opportunities?

Surgical technologists can work in hospitals, surgical units, day surgery units, labor and delivery, sterile processing, or physicians' offices and as sales representatives. For additional information related to the profession of Surgical Technology, refer to the Association of Surgical Technologists **(http://www.ast.org)**.

What is the class schedule/length for the Surgical Technology program?

The program begins in the Fall Semester. Surgical Technology classes are held during the day.
Students will begin their studies in a classroom and laboratory setting and will complete their studies in the operating room and classroom. Students are expected to participate in classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. The Surgical Technology program consists of five semesters and takes two years of full-time study to complete. Applicants may take general education/related coursework for the Surgical Technology program prior to being admitted to the program. Please note that taking these courses does not shorten the length of the program. Students in the Surgical Technology program will take the Certification Examination prior to graduation administered by the National Board on Certification in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

How much does the program cost?

College tuition is set by the North Carolina State Legislature and is subject to change. Students are required to purchase a variety of books, instruments, clinic uniforms, malpractice insurance, accident insurance, and other fees as set by the College. The approximate cost for the program is $8,200 (this figure is based upon current in-state tuition rates and reflects an approximate cost only). For additional information, refer to the Estimated Additional Program Costs document in this packet.

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. For information about financial aid, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at **financial_aid@cvcc.edu** or by calling at 828-327-7000 extension 4860.

Do I need a computer?

Yes, access to a computer is required for this program. Once the CVCC application has been activated, students are assigned a CVCC email address and MyCVCC Portal account. Communication between students, faculty and any other college personnel will be by CVCC email, so students must frequently check their CVCC email accounts for admission status updates.

The following technology resources are recommended for successful completion of this program:

A laptop computer with

- Windows 10 or later with at least 4GB of RAM (6GB or more preferred) and at least 3GB Hard Drive capacity (more preferred)
- Web camera and microphone
- Installation of Microsoft Office Suite & Teams (provided by CVCC)
- Installation of the free Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or newest Microsoft Edge browser (Chrome recommended)
- Reliable Internet access and printer access

Cell phones are not a substitute for laptops; they cannot be used to complete assignments for this program.

Will I be required to complete a Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening?
Yes. Carefully read the information below regarding background checks, drug testing, and the result of a negative background check. Applicants must use CastleBranch, a background screening and compliance management company, for background check/drug screenings.

Clinical facilities will require students to undergo criminal background checks and drug testing.

The student will be required to pay fees associated with these screenings.

Clinical facilities may refuse access to clinical experiences based upon results of a criminal background check, drug screening or immunization/vaccination status.

If any clinical facility refuses to allow a student access to a clinical experience, the student will be **unable to continue in the program.**

How does undocumented immigrant status or DACA status affect application to the program?
Current North Carolina Community College System policy allows DACA and undocumented applicants to enroll at CVCC at the out-of-state tuition cost. However, acceptance to the college does not guarantee acceptance to a specific program. Students with an unexpired DACA status are eligible to apply to an Allied Health program. Students must keep active DACA status to remain enrolled in an Allied Health program. Professional licensure is granted by state licensing boards. Students should inquire with the appropriate licensure board for specific licensure requirements. Undocumented students are not eligible for admission to an Allied Health program. According to North Carolina and Federal laws, undocumented students are not eligible for North Carolina professional licensure. This policy is subject to change without notice based upon federal and state regulations.

When and how will I be notified of acceptance to the program?
Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program within 2 to 6 weeks of the deadline via an email to their CVCC email account. Applicants chosen as alternates or not accepted for the program will also be notified at that time. Students may apply to only one healthcare program at a time. Should acceptance to that program be denied, the student may apply to another healthcare program whose application deadline has not yet occurred.

What if I am not admitted to the program?
Applicants who are not admitted need to re-apply by completing the MAR Checklist for the year of reapplication. Students are responsible for following the guidelines for reapplication. Students are required to submit a new MAR Checklist each year to apply.

If I am accepted, what am I required to do before the first day of class?
Accepted applicants must attend a mandatory Orientation Session with the Program Director and Faculty, at which time the student will be provided with information concerning other program requirements. Students not attending the Session and/or unable to meet any additional requirements will be unable to enter the program.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (MAR) EXPLAINED

To be considered for acceptance, all applicants must complete Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the published deadline.

1. Activate the **CVCC Application** with **"Surgical Technology" as your intended major.**

2. **High School Transcript:** Submit an official High School/High School Equivalency transcript in a sealed envelope issued from the school, electronically through a 3rd party vendor to **transcripts@cvcc.edu** or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline. Information on how to request transcripts may be found at the **How to Request Official Transcripts** web page.

3. **College Transcripts:** Submit ALL official college transcripts in a sealed envelope issued from EVERY school ever attended (except CVCC), or electronically through a 3rd party vendor to **transcripts@cvcc.edu**, or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline.

4. **Attend the CVCC Surgical Technology Information Session.** Applicants must attend a mandatory Surgical Technology Information Session. Refer to the Surgical Technology web page for session listings.

5. **Completed BIO 168**
   (Anatomy & Physiology 1) with a grade of "C" or higher before the published deadline.

6. **Completed ACA 111**
   (College Student Success) or **ACA 122** (College Transfer Success) with a grade of "C" or higher before the published deadline.

7. **Required Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.80.**
   Unweighted high school GPA of 2.80 or higher. Applicants must have a 2.8 or higher on all program required courses.

8. **Submit the completed MAR Checklist before the deadline.**

COMPETITIVE SELECTION AND RANKING

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select the best-qualified applicants from those who completed all Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the deadline. Those applicants receiving the highest number of points will be admitted to the program until the class is filled.

1. **Points for completion (with a "C" or better) of any of the following general education courses in the Surgical Technology curriculum (found on the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide).**

2. **Points will be awarded to applicants with an advanced degree.** Applicants who have attained an AA/AS/AAS/AFA/AE/AGE/BA/BS/MA/MS will be awarded points toward admission. The degree must be earned from a regionally-accredited institution. Completion of the degree will be verified from official transcripts.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY - TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The following activities are examples of the kind of activities which a student in the Surgical Technology program will be required to perform in order to successfully complete the program. If an accepted applicant believes that he/she cannot meet one of more of the standards without accommodations or modifications, the applicant should consult the director of the program for students with disabilities.

CRITICAL THINKING	A Surgical Technology student should possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Students must be able to bring together and relate the similarities of surgical procedures and situations in order to function on unfamiliar procedures.
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	A Surgical Technology student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with surgeons, OR personnel, hospital departmental staff, and patients. These individuals are all experiencing different levels of anxiety within the OR environment in relationship to the position they are holding within the surgical suite. This also includes the ability of the student to handle constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is an ongoing process.	Constructive criticism is expressed in the lab as a teaching tool, in the classroom, and in the clinical sites. Students shall establish a working rapport with surgeons, anesthesia personnel, other surgical technologists, nurses, and a variety of other departmental specialists, as well as patients.
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	A Surgical Technology student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal form.	Discuss and ask questions regarding the surgical procedures both pre-operatively and intra-operatively.
MOBILITY	A Surgical Technology student shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move and maneuver in a small operating room. Students will experience periods of standing in one spot for an extensive amount of time as well as during shorter surgical procedures. Some surgical procedures require sitting for long periods of time. A Surgical Technology student will experience lifting surgical instrument trays as well as participating in patient lifting and positioning.	Holding a patient's extremity for 5 to 15 minutes or standing for a surgical procedure that may last several hours. Instrument trays may weigh as much as 27 pounds.
MOTOR SKILLS	A Surgical Technology student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care in the operating room.	Manipulating very fine and delicate instruments and suture as well as the larger more complex orthopedic and neuro equipment.
HEARING	A Surgical Technology student shall possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs by the surgeon and other sterile operating room team members.	Surgeons and/or staff wear surgical masks during surgical procedures. This limits the ability to hear requests and directions at the surgical field.
VISUAL	A Surgical Technology student shall possess visual ability and acuity for observation and assessment necessary during a surgical procedure.	Handling fine surgical suture needles safely and efficiently in response to the needs of the surgeon and surgical procedure, being able to visualize and follow the surgical procedure, and working with small supplies and instruments that require calibration.
TACTILE	A Surgical Technology student shall possess tactile ability to sufficiently handle all microscopic supplies, instruments, and equipment.	Implantable items for patients may be very delicate, in combination with sterile surgical gloves. Some supplies and instruments require delicate manipulation.
STRESS	Stress in the operating room is very common. Tension runs high many days, and it can affect a student's ability to cope with the environment and others in the environment. Stress arises from the difficult development of interpersonal skills within the operating room. Stress is also environmentally-related (ex: room temperatures, noises, odors, patient conditions, sites, and standing for a long period of time, either in an ergonomic or non-ergonomic position).	Students often feel stress in the SUR 111 Lab and in the clinicals, as they are being watched very closely by the operating room staff or the surgical technology faculty.
COGNITIVE ABILITIES	A Surgical Technology student shall possess the ability to be oriented to time, place, and person, organize responsibilities, and make quick appropriate decisions.	Students will need to quickly assess needs for surgical procedures, anticipate surgeon's needs, and act appropriately at all times. Organizational skills when setting up the instrument table and mayo table allows the student to function in a more efficient manner.
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES	A Surgical Technology student is at high risk for exposure to blood and body fluids, resulting in exposure to communicable disease, toxic substances, medical preparations, and chemical sterilization practices at all times. Standard precautions are to be practiced at all times.	A student may be assigned to a surgical procedure with a patient that has a known or unknown communicable disease. Ethylene oxide is a means of a lethal chemical sterilization process.

Please note: Examples are not all inclusive. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact the Counselor for Students with Disabilities and Special Programs at least 72 hours in advance at (828) 327-7000, ext. 4222 or accommodations@cvcc.edu.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY - ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COSTS

(Estimates only; subject to change without notice)

Items/Services	Estimated Costs
Malpractice Insurance	$28.00
Lab Fee (one-time fee due in Spring)	$89.30
Set of Scrubs (two recommended)	$200.00 (2 sets and a lab jacket)
Vinyl or Leather Shoes	$75.00 - $100.00
Clinical Goggles (optional)	$5.00 - $50.00 (free from hospital)
CastleBranch (Immunization/Certification tracker, criminal background check, drug test)	$120.00
Physical exam, Immunizations, TB test	$400.00
Eye Exam (with retina check)	$60.00 - $100.00
CPR Certification	$37.00 - $65.00
My Clinical Exchange document tracker	$39.50 (12 months)
AST Membership package includes: Membership, certification exam, & exam study guide (Certification exam is now required prior to graduation from CVCC)	$247.00
Travel Expenses for clinical	Cost varies
Travel Expenses for classes	Cost varies
Maintaining immunizations/vaccines/ CastleBranch requirements	Ongoing throughout program

Please Note:

These cost estimates are **in addition** to the costs that any student attending CVCC will incur each semester, such as tuition, activity fees, accident insurance, books, and class supplies such as pens, paper, etc.

Students applying for graduation will pay graduation fees.

Estimates for these costs may be found in the CVCC Catalog.

PRE-ADMISSION COURSEWORK GUIDE

The information provided below is for planning purposes only. Admission and curriculum requirements are subject to change without notice.

The following courses **must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher** by the published deadline:

> **BIO 168 – Anatomy & Physiology I** - with a grade of "C" or higher.

> **ACA 111** – **Student Success** *or* **ACA 122 - Transfer Student Success.**

Applicants are **not required** to complete the following courses before submitting a MAR Checklist, **but these courses are awarded points** in the competitive selection process. These courses, which require a grade of "C" or better, meet program degree requirements:

> **BIO 169** – Anatomy & Physiology 2 (4 credit hours)

> **BIO 275** – Microbiology (4 credit hours)

> **ENG 111** – Writing and Inquiry (3 credit hours)

> **ENG 112** – Writing/Research in the Disciplines (3 credit hours)
> **OR**
> **ENG 114** – Professional Research and Reporting (3 credit hours)
> **OR**
> **ENG 113** – Literature-Based Research (3 credit hours)

> **HUM 115 –** Critical Thinking or **PHI 240** Ethics (3 credit hours - no substitutions allowed)

> **PSY 150** – General Psychology (3 credit hours)

> **SOC 210** – Introduction to Sociology (3 credit hours)

Application & Requirements Deadline – May 31, 2025 by 11:59pm EST

Name: _____   **Student ID#:** _____

Admission requirements are subject to change without notice. Students must ensure all materials have been submitted before the deadline and as directed by the packet.

1. Complete the **CVCC Application** with "Surgical Technology" as the intended major.

2. Submit official **High School/High School Equivalency Transcript**.

3. Submit all official, sealed **College Transcripts** in a sealed envelope from every school ever attended (except CVCC). If additional coursework is completed after submission of transcripts, an official updated transcript must be submitted to CVCC to ensure all transfer credit is awarded.

4. Attend mandatory Surgical Technology **Information session**.

5. Met **GPA** Requirement of **2.80**.

6. Completed **BIO 168 Anatomy & Physiology I** course with a grade of "C" or higher.

7. Completed **ACA 111** OR **ACA122** course with a grade of "C" or higher.

8. **Submit the completed MAR Checklist before the deadline.**