



SCHOOL OF
**HEALTH
EDUCATION**
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in Catawba Valley Community College's Surgical Technology program. All below MAR requirements must be met prior to the deadline of **May 31, 2026 at 11:59pm EST**.

- ☐ [Apply Now](#) to CVCC and select Surgical Technology as your intended major. Once your application is processed you will receive your CVCC ID and student e-mail. All school related communications will go to your CVCC email.
- ☐ Attend the mandatory Surgical Technology Information Session. Refer to the [Surgical Technology webpage](#) for a listing of sessions.
- ☐ Register and take the [ATI TEAS exam](#)
- ☐ [Submit Official, Sealed Transcripts](#): High School/High School Equivalency Transcript/ College Transcripts. If you complete additional coursework after submitting an initial transcript, updated transcripts must be received prior to the deadline to ensure transfer credit is considered.
- ☐ Submit the completed [MAR checklist](#) on-line by May 31, 2026.
- ☐ Complete all required general education courses listed in the table below with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.

Required General Education for program entry					
GPA 2.8 Minimum Unweighted high school GPA of 2.80 or higher. Applicants must have a 2.80 or higher on all program required courses.			Cumulative, unweighted HS GPA or Highest average GPA from secondary institutions with a minimum of 6 credits		
				Grade	Points
ATI TEAS Score		TEAS Score X 2			
BIO 168: Anatomy & Physiology I (C or better 4 credit hours)	A = 600	B = 500	C = 400		
BIO 169: Anatomy & Physiology II (C or better 4 credit hours)	A = 600	B = 500	C = 400		
ACA 111: College Student Success OR ACA 122: College Transfer Success (C or better)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
MED 121: Medical Terminology I (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
MED 122: Medical Terminology II (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
The following courses are not required for admission to the Surgical Technology Program. These courses are awarded points used to determine competitive selection ranking. These courses, which require a grade of "C" or better, are required for graduation from the Surgical Technology Program.					
PSY 150: General Psychology (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
ENG 111: Writing and Inquiry (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
COM 120: Intro Interpersonal Com (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
HUM 115 Critical Thinking (C or better 3 credit hours) OR PHI 240: Introduction to Ethics (C or better 3 credit hours)	A = 100	B = 75	C = 50		
				Total Points	

This packet explains the steps to apply to CVCC and be considered for competitive admission to the Surgical Technology Program. While the college follows an open-door admission policy, Surgical Technology applicants must also meet additional Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR). Re-admission applicants must meet current admission criteria.

The CVCC Surgical Technology Program admits a limited number of students through a competitive selection process. To be considered, applicants must complete the MAR checklist by May 31, 2026. The required general education table on the first page 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. The number of students accepted each year may vary depending on clinical space.

Being accepted to CVCC does not mean you are accepted into the Surgical Technology Program. Admission to the Surgical Technology Program is a separate, competitive process. Requirements may change at any time without notice, so it's important to follow the instructions in this packet carefully and submit all required materials by the deadline. The CVCC team is here to support, we welcome your questions.

ATI Scores

Official test scores sent electronically by ATI must be received by the May 31st deadline to be considered. The highest score within three years will be used (May 31, 2023 to May 31, 2026).

There is no minimum score required for the TEAS; applicants are awarded points in the competitive admission process according to the applicant's TEAS score. There is no limit placed on the number of times an applicant can take the TEAS exam. Applicants may test only once per day. An ATI TEAS Study Guide is available for purchase in the CVCC Campus Store or may be purchased online at [ATI Testing](#).

*Questions about the **Surgical Technology Program** should be directed to the **Director, Sarah Hayes***

Phone: (828) 327-7000, ext. 4771

E-mail: shayes257@cvcc.edu

***General questions** about the college or application process should be directed to*

Enrollment Managers

Phone: (828) 327-7000 ext. 4216

E-mail: healthcare@cvcc.edu

Student Responsibility & Notification of Acceptance:

It is the responsibility of each applicant to regularly monitor their CVCC student account and email through the application process.

This includes checking for updates, missing documents, and important communications related to admissions. Missing email updates may affect your application status.

Applicants will be notified of their admission status, via their CVCC e-mail, **by July 12, 2026**. Applicants not initially accepted may be placed on an alternate list and will be admitted in ranked order as space becomes available. Students may apply to only one healthcare program at a time. Should acceptance to the 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 not accepted will 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 being unable to meet any additional requirements listed above will be unable to enter the program.

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 four 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).

Physical and Emotional Health: Students will be required to complete a medical form validating satisfactory physical and emotional health and current immunization status. Clinical agencies determine clinical requirements including immunizations. These requirements may change during the program. Students are required to remain compliant with all requirements during their enrollment in the program.

CPR Certification: Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider certification by the American Heart Association must be maintained as current for the duration of the program.

Background Check & Drug Screen: 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 **annually**.
- 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 clinical experience, the student will be unable to continue in the program.

Do I need a computer, and will I receive a CVCC email account?

Yes, access to a computer is required for this program. Once the CVCC application has been activated, students are assigned to 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

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

Applicants are encouraged to complete the **FAFSA** at www.FAFSA.gov. For assistance, contact CVCC's [Financial Aid](#) or call **828-327-7000, ext. 4860**.

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). [Student payment information](#)

Estimated 1 st year Program cost	
Lab Fee (one-time fee due at Program entry)	\$120.00
Uniforms (2 sets)	\$200.00 (2 sets and a lab jacket)
Vinyl or Leather Shoes	\$75.00 - \$100.00
CastleBranch (Immunization/Certification tracker, criminal background check, drug test)	\$140.00
Trajecsys documentation system (for 2 years; if the student requires delayed entry, there is a subsequent fee for additional semesters)	\$180.00
Physical exam, Immunizations, TB test, Routine eye exam	\$400.00
CPR Certification (American Heart Association)	\$37.00 - \$65.00
Estimated 2 nd year Program cost	
Professional Liability Insurance	\$35.00/year
AST Membership package which includes Membership, certification exam, & exam study guide (Certification exam is now required prior to graduation from CVCC)	\$247.00
Ongoing expenses	
Transportation	
Books and Supplies	
Tuition	
Maintaining immunizations/vaccines/Annually, as due, CastleBranch requirements	

Please Note: This does not include CVCC College tuition, fees, and graduation costs. 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](#).

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 sufficient interpersonal abilities 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.



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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 allow 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.