



Surgical Technology Program – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I apply to the ST Program?

Students must start by applying to the college (Chatt Tech) and be accepted by Spring Semester of each year. Once accepted to the college, students can then apply to the ST Program separately by viewing the Program Application Video and then applying to the program with the application link and passcode given in the video. The start date for the program is in August (of that same year) beginning Fall semester. Students are only considered for admission if they have met (or expect to meet) all of the pre-requisites by the published deadlines.

Q: Is it hard to get into the ST Program?

The ST Program does have competitive admissions (even though Chatt Tech is Open Enrollment). We accept 24 students each Fall based on a points system. You can see what items are considered for points on our ST Program webpage and in the Program Application Video.

Q: I already have a college degree. Will you accept my transfer credit?

When you apply to the college (Chatt Tech), you can submit your transfer credits for evaluation by our Admissions office. They will determine if your previous course work meets the pre-requisite requirements for the ST Program. You can find more information about transfer credits on the college's website.

Q: Is the ST Program offered online?

The ST Program is only offered in person on the North Metro Campus.

Q: Is the ST Program offered at night or on the weekends?

ST Program classes are only offered Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

Q: Can I take ST classes “part-time,” or take them on my own schedule?

No, the ST Program is only available as a “full-time” schedule in a closed cohort.

Q: Is the ST Program offered on any other campuses?

The ST Program is only available on the North Metro Campus.

Q: How long is the ST Program?

Students must complete the pre-requisite courses prior to beginning the ST Program. The ST Program takes 3 semesters. Students start in the Fall Semester each year (in August), and graduate at the end of Summer Semester the following year (in July).

Q: What is the schedule like for a ST student?

Students in the ST Program should expect to be on-campus, in person 4-5 days/week. Class is usually scheduled between about 8:30am and 5:30pm, but will vary for specific classes and specific semesters. ST students are considered “full-time” students.

Q: What is a “Closed Cohort”?

The ST Program uses a “closed cohort” model. This means that only students in the ST program may take ST classes, and students in each cohort will take all their classes together. Students in the ST program must take their classes in a specific order, and they register for a set of co-requisite courses each semester. Completion of the co-requisite courses during one semester allows them to progress to the next set of co-requisite courses the next semester.

Q: Are “Clinicals” part of the program?

Yes, students must complete 4 clinical courses during the program. Clinicals are completed at local hospitals and healthcare facilities which are contracted with the college. The days and hours for clinicals are typically Tuesday through Thursday from 6am to 3pm. Student assignments to the clinical locations are made by program leadership to ensure each student has the best possible experience. Students are not allowed to request a particular clinical assignment.

Q: What are the requirements for “Clinicals”?

Students are required to provide proof of current BLS training which must be valid through program graduation. Students will be required by our clinical affiliates to submit to a Background Check & Drug Screen, vaccinations, and other requirements. Requirements for clinicals are reviewed in more detail during the Program Application Video and during the mandatory orientation which is held in August.

Q: Are the costs for clinicals included in my tuition?

Unfortunately, no. You will need to cover the cost of travel and other clinical requirements. More information about ST Program cost is reviewed in the Program Application Video.

Q: Can I work while I go through the ST program?

It is possible to work part-time while in the program, but full-time work is not recommended due to the difficult nature of the program, as well as the variable schedule. If you do choose to work, an evening or weekend schedule is strongly recommended.

Q: Do I need to be certified to work as a ST?

Surgical Techs are not required to be certified in the state of Georgia, but a few states do require certification. A week after completing the program, graduates will return to campus to take the national certification exam offered through NBSTSA. This exam fee is included in tuition for the program. We require graduates to sit for the exam and strive to become certified as this will be an advantage for them for employment.

Q: What is the salary of a Surgical Technologist?

The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for Surgical Assistants and Technologists](#) provides the average salary nationally and geographically for ST's. In recent years, some graduates have received sign-on bonuses!

Q: I still have questions. How can I find out more information about the ST Program?

The ST Program website is an excellent source of information. You can also contact the ST Program Director, Mary Jo Bergman at maryjo.bergman@chattahoocheetech.edu.

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