



Wayne  
County  
Community  
College  
District

# Surgical Technology: First Assistant

## PAY

Salaries for surgical technologists averaged \$45,160 annually as of May 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The average annual surgical first assistant salary is \$101,480 as of May 2016. One reason for the wide variation is that surgical first assistants are paid at the level of their primary profession, such as registered nurse or physician assistant.

## JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.

<https://work.chron.com/surgical-assistant-vs-surgical-technologist-15223.html>

<https://www.caahep.org/Students/Program-Info/Surgical-Assisting.aspx>

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Surgical First Assistant (SFA) College Certificate program is offered as one of four career options for students admitted into the Surgical Technology program. Enrollment in the program is limited due to the number of clinical learner positions available at each of the clinical settings. A student's educational experience in the program includes both classroom course work (didactic) and practical (clinical) instruction in a peri-operative environment. Upon successful completion of the SFA Certificate program, students will also receive a Certificate of Completion and will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination.



## WHAT DO SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY FIRST ASSISTANTS DO?

As defined by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), surgical assistants provide aid in intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. In addition to intraoperative duties, the surgical assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate proper patient care.

A Surgical First Assistant works under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations. The SFA provides aid in exposure, homeostasis, and other technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. A SFA must be knowledgeable in surgical procedures and the use of surgical instruments on tissues.

## WHERE DO THEY WORK?

Most of these surgical first assistants (SFA) are employed by hospitals; however, a growing number are employed by physician groups, private SFA practices, medical travel agencies, or are self-employed.

# Recommended Sequence of Courses

## Surgical Technology: Surgical First Assistant College Certificate

CR. No.	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
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### SEMESTER 1

BIO 252	Pathophysiology .....	4
SFA 200	Fundamentals of Surgical First Assisting .....	3
SFA 210	Advance Surgical Pharmacology .....	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL .....</b>		<b>10</b>

### SEMESTER 2

SFA 253	Surgical Anatomy .....	4
SFA 220	Surgical Patient Management ...	3
SFA 230	Surgical First Assistant Techniques .....	3
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL .....</b>		<b>10</b>

### SEMESTER 3

SFA 235	Clinical Preceptorship .....	8
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL .....</b>		<b>8</b>

### SEMESTER 4

SFA 245	Clinical Preceptorship II .....	8
<b>SEMESTER TOTAL .....</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE TOTAL .....</b>		<b>36</b>

*Note: Certificate total hours may not include prerequisites.*

