

# SURGICAL TECHNICIANS

Surgical Technologists assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. May help set up operating room, prepare and transport patients for surgery, adjust lights and equipment, pass instruments and other supplies to surgeons and surgeon's assistants, hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

## DUTIES

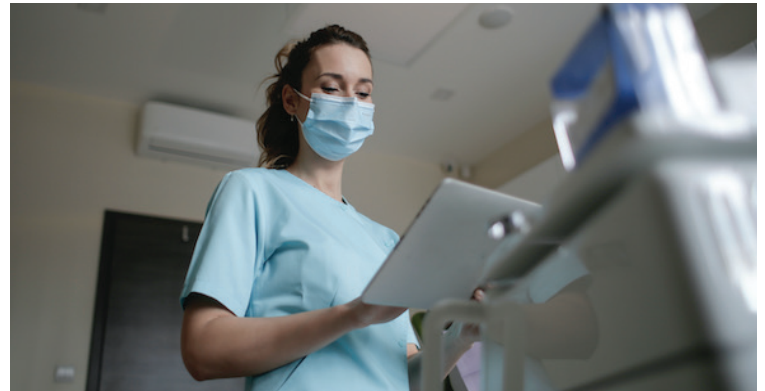
A person in this career:

- Maintains a proper sterile field during surgical procedures.
- Counts sponges, needles, and instruments before and after operation.
- Scrubs arms and hands and assists the surgical team to scrub and put on gloves, masks, and surgical clothing.
- Provides technical assistance to surgeons, surgical nurses, or anesthesiologists.
- Prepares patients for surgery, including positioning patients on the operating table and covering them with sterile surgical drapes to prevent exposure.
- Hands instruments and supplies to surgeons and surgeons' assistants, holds retractors and cuts sutures, and performs other tasks as directed by surgeon during operation.
- Prepares, cares for, and disposes of tissue specimens taken for laboratory analysis.
- Washes and sterilizes equipment, using germicides and sterilizers.
- Monitors and continually assesses operating room conditions, including patient and surgical team needs.
- Operates, assembles, adjusts, or monitors sterilizers, lights, suction machines, or diagnostic equipment to ensure proper operation.

Surgical technologists assist and support before, during, and after operations. They make sure that the entire process goes smoothly. Techs work under the supervision of surgeons and registered nurses.

Before operations, techs put surgical instruments and equipment into place in the operating room. They gather sterile linens and solutions. They check equipment to make sure that it is working well. Then they make any required adjustments in the room.

Next, surgical techs prepare patients for the operation. They wash, shave, and disinfect the part of the body that requires surgery.



## SALARY INFORMATION

Location	2018				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
California	\$40,200	\$50,680	\$62,030	\$75,350	\$85,810

\*Pay period based on yearly amount.

**EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK**

Stable growth rate is estimated to be **15%**

**970** estimated annual job openings

Techs move patients to the operating room and position them on the table. Then, they cover the patients with sterile surgical linens. Just before surgery, techs help the surgical team scrub up and put on gloves, gowns, and surgical masks.

During surgery, techs work with instruments and other sterile supplies. They hand these items to surgeons and surgical assistants as needed. To help the surgeon, they may also hold retractors. This means they hold open the incision in the patient's body while the surgeon works.

Surgical techs have many other daily tasks. They may cut the sutures on a healed wound. They count sponges, needles, and instruments. Techs may operate equipment and fixtures such as sterilizers or suction machines. They may also use diagnostic equipment.

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Techs often care for specimens that are removed from a patient's body. They may need to prepare the sample for testing or dispose of it afterward. Some techs apply dressings or bandages to wounds. They may also maintain supplies of fluids, such as plasma and blood, during surgery.

After operations, techs often help move patients to the recovery room. Then, they clean and restock the operating room to get it ready for the next surgery.

## RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians ☀

Respiratory Therapy Technicians

Veterinary Technologists and Technicians ☀

Dental Assistants ☀

Endoscopy Technicians ☀

