

Functional Abilities and Skills of Surgical Technology Students/Essential Qualifications

All students in the Lake Land College Surgical Technology Program must be able to perform diverse, complex, and specific functions and skills. Functional ability is a state of wellness. Therefore, these functions and skills are essential for successful completion of the requirements of the program and are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, peers, faculty, and other healthcare providers. The functions and skills include, but are not limited to, the following abilities:

<p><i>Motor Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move within confined space • Extended periods of sitting, standing, lifting, and walking briskly • Reach above shoulders and below waist • Sustain repetitive movement • Perform client care for an entire length of clinical experience, 8-12 hours • Sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers 	<p><i>Fine motor skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up objects with hands • Grasp small objects with hands • Write with pen or pencil • Utilize computers correctly, effectively and professionally to acquire information and to communicate with others. • Safely manipulate sharps; Use hands and fingers for fine manipulation of surgical instruments. • Twist (turn knobs with hands) • Squeeze with finger (eye dropper)
<p><i>Critical Thinking Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply information, evaluate the meaning of data and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting • Respond appropriately to constructive feedback • Manage time effectively • Identify cause and effect relationships • Plan/control activities for others • Synthesize knowledge and skills • Sequence information 	<p><i>Sensory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and respond to equipment/emergency alarms • Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, discriminate color changes and interpret and assess the environment up to 20 feet; read and understand written documents • The ability to demonstrate visual and auditory acuity within normal range (with correction if needed) in order to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. • Auditory interpretation of normal speaking level sound • Accurately interpret faint voices • Auscultate faint body sounds (BP), bowel sounds, lung sounds, heart sounds • Use depth perception and peripheral vision • Accurately interpret small print on medication containers, syringes, discriminate color changes, read type at 8 font, and document on college ruled paper • Accurately read monitors and equipment calibrations • Detect odors from patient • Detect smoke, gases or noxious smells • Feel vibrations (pulses) • Detect temperature • Feel differences in surface characteristics • Feel differences in sizes, shapes (palpate vein) • Calibrate and manipulate equipment correctly; hold and feel instruments in hands • Detect environmental temperature
<p><i>Physical Strength and mobility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push or pull patients to ensure proper positioning • Support patient during ambulation • Lift patients to transfer • Lift a minimum of 25-50 pounds • Move heavy objects • Defend self against combative client • Carry equipment/supplies • Use upper body strength (CPR, restrain a client) • Squeeze with hands (fire extinguisher) • Twist and bend • Stoop, squat • Move quickly • Climb (ladder stairs) • Physical endurance to complete an 8-12 hour shift 	
<p><i>Emotional Stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish therapeutic boundaries • Provide client with emotional support • Adapt to rapidly changing environmental support • Adapt to changing environment and stress • Deal with unexpected (crisis) • Focus attention on task • Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently • Capable of managing heavy schedules and deadlines; multiple priorities; and perform in fast-paced situations • Handle strong emotions calmly and professionally (grief) • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations 	<p><i>Interpersonal Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate interpersonal conflict • Respect differences in patients • Provide patient with emotional support • Establish rapport with patients and co-workers • Collaborate with multiple agencies to delivery patient care • Delegate patient care tasks to coworkers • Teach and provide information in an accurate and effective manner • Report patient information to other caregivers • The ability to use the English language to communicate effectively in a rational, coherent manner, both orally and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain adequate concentration and attention in hospital and prehospital settings • Apply information, evaluate the meaning of data and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting • Maintain composure when subjected to high stress <p><i>[Behavioral Skills]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate caring for others, initiative, flexibility, enthusiasm, honesty, cooperation • Recognize personal limitations and request assistance as appropriate • Performs duties efficiently, willingly, and thoroughly • Demonstrate the ability to conform to appropriate standards of dress, appearance, language and public behavior • Advocate, uphold and defend a patient's right to privacy and the doctrine of confidentiality 	<p>in writing, with individuals of all professions and social levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use professional, appropriate grammar and cultural sensitivity in written and oral communication • Interacts appropriately with all individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds • Shows respect for individuals of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, religion and/or sexual orientation • Employs basic conflict management skills, demonstrating professional demeanor and behavior and must perform all aspects of work in an ethical manner in relation to peers, faculty, staff and patients
<p><i>Arithmetic Competence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & understand columns of writing • Read digital displays and graphics printouts (I&O) • Calibrate equipment • Convert numbers to/from metric • Measure time (duration) • Count rates (pulse rate) • Calculate medication dosages • Use measuring tools (thermometer) • Read measurement marks (calipers) • Add, subtract, multiply, divide • Use a calculator • Write number in records 	<p><i>Analytical Thinking Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another • Evaluate outcomes • Problem solve and prioritize actions safely and efficiently • Use short- and long-term memory • Accurately assess B/P, heart, lung, vascular and abdominal sounds • Identify cyanosis, absence of respiration and movements of client rapidly and accurately • Accurately process information on medication container, physician's orders, equipment calibrations, printed documents, flow and graphic sheets, medication administration records, and other medical records