

SURT-1911: CLINICAL EXPERIENCE I

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SURT-1911 : Clinical Experience I

Board of Trustees:

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Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

SURT - Surgical Technology

Course Number:

1911

Title:

Clinical Experience I

Catalog Description:

Beginning-level scrubbing and instrumentation skills while caring for a surgical patient. The course begins with several weeks of "mock surgery" in the surgical lab on campus and then transitions to the operating room at assigned affiliated hospital or surgery center. Skills performed correlate with skills learned in surgery lab. Includes scrubbing, gowning and gloving, back table and mayo set-ups, surgical draping, instrumentation skills, basic procedural knowledge and employability skills. Students perform primarily in the second scrub role, gradually increasing to the first scrub role. Note: Listed lecture hour reflects contact time for required seminar.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Other Hour(s):

241

Other Hour Details:

Practicum: 16 hours per week in hospital setting; Seminar: 1 hour per week

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

SURT-1300 Introduction to Surgery, and SURT-130L Surgery Lab and concurrent enrollment in SURT-1330 General Surgery.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

A. Apply knowledge of the operating room environment when working as a surgical technologist.

Objective(s):

1. Demonstrate proficiency of surgery lab skills learned during SURT-130L.
2. Identify cleaning procedures, traffic patterns, and routines in the operative environment.
3. Identify the physical components of the OR.
4. Identify hazards to the patient and OR staff in the operative environment.
5. Identify support services that work with the OR team in the care of the patient.

Course Outcome(s):

B. Perform basic surgical technologist duties; including, beginning level case management skills, and second scrub role, gradually increasing to first scrub role, in the operating room environment.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Demonstrate principles related to the transferring and transporting the surgical patient.
2. Apply beginning-level principles of surgical positioning.
3. Competency related to the practice of sterile technique.
4. Demonstrate competency in the procedures related to disinfection and sterilization.
5. Demonstrate techniques of opening and preparing supplies and instruments needed for the operative procedure with the maintenance of sterile technique at all times.
6. Demonstrate the proper technique for the surgical hand scrub, gowning, gloving, and assisting team members.
7. Demonstrate the proper technique of preparing supplies and instruments on the sterile field.
8. Demonstrate proper procedure for counting instruments, sponges, needles, and other items on the sterile field.
9. Demonstrate the principles of surgical draping.
10. Demonstrate the initial steps for starting a surgical procedure.
11. Demonstrate intraoperative handling of sterile equipment and supplies.
12. Demonstrate the proper handling of surgical specimens.
13. Applies beginning-level problem-solving skills in the operative setting.
14. Demonstrate beginning-level selection and utilization of appropriate clinical resource material to aid in knowledge of surgical procedures.
15. Demonstrate proper back table and mayo setups.
16. Demonstrate postoperative routines including preparation of dressing and drains, cleaning and preparing instruments for terminal sterilization, participating in room turnover and, assisting with transfer and transport of patient when necessary.
17. Perform in a minimum of 120 surgical cases throughout all program clinical experiences.
18. Perform 30 cases in General Surgery; 20 of the cases must be in the First Scrub Role.
19. Perform 90 cases in various surgical specialties; 60 of the cases must be in the First Scrub Role.

Course Outcome(s):

- C. Demonstrate professional conduct when working in the operating room environment.

Objective(s):

1. Speaks and behaves professionally.
2. Demonstrates punctuality.
3. Accepts constructive criticism.
4. Complies with hospital and college policies.
5. Displays a positive attitude.
6. Works as a team member.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Demonstration of skills
2. Clinical attendance and evaluation.
3. Written assignments
4. Seminar attendance and participation

Course Content Outline:

1. Mock Surgery
 - a. Check and assemble equipment and supplies
 - b. Open sterile supplies
 - c. Scrub, gown and glove
 - d. Set up table including instruments, supplies, equipment and medications/solutions
 - e. Perform surgical counts
 - f. Gown and glove other surgical team members
 - g. Assist in draping the sterile field
 - h. Pass instruments and other supplies to the surgeon and other team members
 - i. Maintain highest standard of surgical technique
 - j. Prepares sterile drains and dressings
 - k. Cleans and prepares instruments for terminal sterilization
 - l. Assist in cleaning the operating room
 - m. Assists in preparing the operating room for the next procedure
2. Operating Room (OR) orientation to 1st year clinical site

- a. Facilities
- b. OR policies/procedures
- c. OR supply areas
- d. Preference cards/educational materials
- e. Assignment board
- 3. OR/central supply orientation
 - a. Instrument set contents
 - b. Packs/contents
 - c. Washer/sterilizer, ultrasonic washer
 - d. Sterilization methods
- 4. Operating room environment
 - a. General knowledge
 - i. Aseptic technique
 - ii. Anatomy and physiology
 - iii. Anesthesia routines
 - iv. Standard precautions
 - v. Critical thinking
 - b. Preoperative skills
 - i. Preparation of proper supplies
 - ii. Opening supplies
 - iii. Positioning
 - iv. Assistant circulating skills
 - 1. Skin prep
 - 2. Urinary catheterization
 - 3. Vital signs
 - a. Temperature
 - b. Respiration
 - c. Blood Pressure
 - d. Pulse
 - 4. Preoperative duties
 - a. Prepare operating room
 - b. Perform equipment safety checks
 - c. Ensure trash, linen and suction liners are in place
 - d. Ensure positioning devices are available
 - e. Open sterile supplies
 - f. Tie surgical team members' gowns
 - g. Perform counts
 - h. Assist in patient transfer and positioning
 - 5. Intraoperative duties
 - a. Open sterile supplies onto the sterile field
 - b. Monitor OR traffic
 - c. Anticipate the needs of the surgical team
 - d. Perform counts
 - e. Pour sterile solutions
 - f. Care for specimens
 - g. Complete documentation
 - 6. Postoperative duties
 - a. Open drains and dressing supplies
 - b. Complete documentation
 - v. Time organization
- c. Intraoperative skills
 - i. Scrubbing, gowning, gloving
 - ii. Back table and mayo setup
 - iii. Draping
 - iv. Instrumentation
 - v. Sutures/staplers
 - vi. Specimen care
 - vii. Medication/solutions

- viii. Counting instruments, sponges, sharps
- ix. Sterile/clean/contaminated procedures
- x. Organization of sterile field
- xi. Anticipation of the surgical team
- xii. Sterilization of instruments/equipment
- xiii. Assistant circulating skills
- xiv. 120 surgical cases
- xv. Scrub roles
 - 1. First scrub role - Must meet the following five criteria as well as the criteria of the second scrub role
 - a. Verify supplies and equipment needed for surgical procedures
 - b. Set up the sterile field with instruments, supplies, equipment, medication(s), and solutions needed for the procedure
 - c. Perform counts with the circulator prior to the procedure and before the incision is closed
 - d. Pass instruments and supplies to the sterile team members during the procedure
 - e. Maintain sterile technique as measured by recognized breaks in technique and demonstrate knowledge of how to correct with appropriate technique
 - 2. Second scrub role - The second scrub role is defined as the student who is at the sterile field who has not met all the criteria for the first scrub role but actively participates in the surgical procedure in its entirety by completing any of the following:
 - a. Sponging
 - b. Suctioning
 - c. Cutting Suture
 - d. Holding retractors
 - e. Manipulating endoscopic camera
 - f. Assists with a diagnostic endoscopy
 - g. Assists with vaginal delivery
 - 3. Observation role - The observation role is defined as the student who is in the operating room performing roles that do not meet the criteria for the first or second scrub role. These observation cases are not to be included in the required case count but must be documented by the program.
- xvi. General Surgery - 30 cases required, 20 in First Scrub Role
- xvii. Surgical Specialties - 90 cases required, 60 in First Scrub Role
 - 1. Cardiothoracic
 - 2. ENT (Ear, Nose Throat)
 - 3. Eye
 - 4. GU (Genitourinary)
 - 5. Neuro (Neurosurgery)
 - 6. Ob-Gyn (Obstetrics-Gynecology)
 - 7. Oral/Maxillofacial
 - 8. Orthopedics
 - 9. Peripheral vascular
 - 10. Plastics
 - 11. Procurement/Transplant
- d. Postoperative skills
 - i. Dressing/drains
 - ii. Terminal sterilization of instruments
 - iii. Transfer/transport of patient
- e. Professional development
 - i. Professional conversation
 - ii. Punctuality
 - iii. Constructive criticism
 - iv. Hospital/college policies
 - v. Flexibility
 - vi. Surgical conscience
 - vii. Positive attitude
 - viii. Team attitude

Resources

Association of Surgical Technologists, et al. *Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist: A Positive Care Approach*. 6th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2024.

Dankanich, Nancy. *Operating Room Skills*. 2nd ed. Upsaddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc., 2020.

Fuller Kotcher, Joanna. *Surgical Technology Principles and Practice*. 8th ed. St. Louis: Elsevier, 2022.

Goldman, Maxine A. *Pocket Guide to the Operating Room*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis, 2020.

Phillips, Nancymarie. *Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique*. 14th ed. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 2021.

Pieknik, Rebecca. *Suture and Surgical Hemostasis*. 1st ed. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Mosby, 2006.

Rothrock, J. C. *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*. 17th ed. St. Louis: Mosby, 2023.

Rothrock, J. C. and Sherri Alexander. *Alexander's Surgical Procedures*. 1st ed. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Mosby, 2012.

Rutherford, Colleen J. *Surgical Equipment and Supplies*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: F. A. Davis, 2023.

Rutherford, Colleen J. *Differentiating Surgical Instruments*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: F. A. Davis, 2020.

Venes, Donald, ed. *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*. 24th ed. Philadelphia: Davis, 2021.

Resources Other

[Association of Surgical Technologists](https://www.ast.org/). <https://www.ast.org/> 2025.

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