

Surgical Technology **FY22** and **FY23** A brief response outlining the improvements or changes that have been made to the Surgical Technology program as a result of program reviews and assessment processes. In the 22 ST Program Assessment Plan, the Direct Measures utilized

- Post program assessment evaluations – Target: 100% of students will achieve a passing score of 75% or higher on the post assessment evaluation. '22 Data: Pass Rate=100% scored 80% or higher
- NBSTA Certification: Target: 100% student participation / 70% pass rate. '22 Data: Participation Rate=100%, Pass Rate=100%

In 2021 the ST Program graduates pass rate for the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) exam was 89%. While this exceeded the standard of 70% pass rate set by the Accreditation Review Council for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA) our program wants every graduate to have success in passing a high stakes professional credentialing exam.

With the support of the Program Advisory Committee, the program implemented an exam preparatory course to strengthen graduate readiness for the NBSTSA certification exam. Provided at no cost to students, the preparatory materials were delivered through D2L, allowing access to content modules and practice examinations.

Faculty developed a series of practice exams aligned with NBSTSA exam domains, including perioperative care, additional duties, and basic sciences. Although the course is ungraded, students were required to complete all five exams and achieve a minimum score of 70% on each exam at least once. Students were permitted unlimited attempts to encourage mastery of the material.

The 2022 NBSTSA certification exam results demonstrated significant improvement, with the program achieving a 100% pass rate compared to 88% in 2021. Analysis of year-over-year performance reflected notable gains across all tested domains. Individual and cohort exam reports are reviewed after each round of NBSTSA testing to identify strengths and areas for enhancement. The program continues to refine and update exam preparation materials annually, ensuring ongoing alignment with NBSTSA standards and supporting sustained student success.

In the 2023 report the Indirect Measures utilized

- Employer Survey – Target: 100% of the graduates will receive a ranking of at least 7 on a 10-point Likert scale. Return rate of 50% or greater and a satisfaction rate of 85% is the ARC/STSA threshold. Data: Satisfaction Rate=100% Employer Rate of Return=71%, Satisfaction Rate=100%

Maintaining open communication and a collaborative relationship with our clinical partners remains essential to the success of the program. Employer satisfaction continues to align with historical results. Although the employer survey Rate of Return met ARC/STSA standards at 71%, it indicated an opportunity for improvement.

To strengthen employer engagement, the Program Director implemented an early-notification process, sending managers a reminder one week prior to survey distribution. This communication emphasized the importance of employer feedback in ensuring our graduates meet industry expectations. Following survey deployment, a second message was sent to either encourage completion or acknowledge receipt. As reflected in the 2023 Annual Report, these efforts resulted in an increased Rate of Return of 75%.

The program consistently meets or exceeds all ARC/STSA minimum accreditation benchmarks, demonstrating our continued commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

The Surgical Technology Program completes a comprehensive Annual Program Assessment for the College, as well as an annual report to the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). This report encompasses all key elements of program performance, including enrollment trends, laboratory ratios, retention data, and outcomes. Input from our communities of interest is incorporated through the Program Advisory Committee, which includes clinical partners, physicians, students, certified surgical technologists, graduates, college administrators, and public representatives.

The annual submission also details program administration, including information on the Program Director, faculty qualifications, budget, clinical affiliation agreements, and College administrative personnel. Ongoing assessment is accomplished through structured self-studies and continuous alignment with ARC/STSA expectations, in collaboration with the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) and the American College of Surgeons (ACS), to ensure full compliance with the Standards and Guidelines established by CAAHEP.