

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT POLICIES

**Functional Ability Categories with Representative Activities/Attributes
for the
Surgical Technology Program/Apprenticeship**

In this program, students should be able to meet specific functional abilities which are the essential skills and abilities needed to be successful in a program, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made to ensure access to academic programs, activities, services, and employment in accordance with Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. If accommodations are needed, contact the campus Accommodations Specialist or the Northwood Tech Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer, at 715-645-7042, TTY 711, 30 days in advance of needed assistance. Services available are documented on the Northwood Tech Accommodations webpage:

[Accommodation Services | Northwood Technical College.](#)

For more information, please see Administrative Procedure J-111A Reasonable Accommodation for Student.

Gross Motor Skills:

- Move within confined spaces
- Maintain balance in multiple positions
- Reach above shoulders (e.g., adjust overhead lights)
- Reach below the waist (e.g., plug an electrical appliance into a wall outlet)
- Reach out front

Fine Motor Skills:

- Pick up objects with hands
- Grasp small objects with hands firm and slight (ex. surgical instruments, sutures)
- Write with a pen or pencil
- Key/type (e.g., use a computer)
- Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe)
- Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands)
- Squeeze with the finger (e.g., eye dropper)
- Manual dexterity
- Finger dexterity
- Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers
- Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand-foot (e.g., pumping soap dispenser and surgical scrub)

Physical Endurance:

- Stand for long periods from 4-6 hours.
- Maintain the same position for long periods.
- Sustained repetitive movements
- Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours

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Physical Strength:

- Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., carry instrument pans, position client, move equipment)
- Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., hold arm or leg)
- Lift 50 pounds (e.g., pick up a child, transfer a client, bend to lift an infant or child)
- Carry equipment/supplies (e.g., lift instrument pans)
- Use upper body strength (e.g., retraction, physically restraining a client)
- Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguishers)

Mobility:

- Ability to: stand, walk, twist, turn, bend, stoop, squat, sit, climb stairs, move quickly

Hearing:

- Ability to hear normal-speaking-level sounds (e.g., person-to-person conversation, request for an instrument)
- Hear faint voices and body sounds (e.g., heartbeat)
- Ability to discriminate speech in the presence of background noises.
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., masks are worn in the operating room)

Visual:

- See objects no closer than 12 inches from the face (e.g., information on a monitor screen, identification of small needles)
- See objects up to 20 feet away
- Use depth perception
- Use peripheral vision
- Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies)
- See in a darkened room (e.g., during endoscopic procedures, eye surgery)

Tactile:

- Feel vibrations (e.g., palpate pulses)
- Detect temperature (e.g., solutions)
- Feel differences in surface characteristics
- Feel differences in sizes, shapes
- Detect environment temperature

Environment:

- Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, chemicals/substances)
- Tolerate strong soaps
- Tolerate strong odors
- Exposure to and tolerate unpleasant sights and sounds, electrical energy, solvents, grease, oils, slippery or uneven walking surfaces, excessive noises, chemical and biological agents that could be potentially harmful
- Tolerate working in confined spaces for extended periods.
- Tolerate wearing protective equipment (e.g., mask, gown, gloves, glasses, laser, and radiation)
- Tolerate working indoors
- Tolerate working in extreme temperatures

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Reading:

- Read and understand written documents
- Read digital displays

Math:

- Ability to count, add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers
- Compute fractions and decimals
- Document numbers in records
- Tell and measure time
- Read measurement marks (e.g., rulers, scale)

Emotional Stability:

- Establish professional relationships
- Adapt to changing environment/stress
- Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)
- Focus attention on a task.
- Cope with own emotions
- Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently
- Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief, anger, stress)
- Accept constructive feedback
- Accept responsibility for own actions

Analytical Thinking:

- Transfer knowledge from one situation to another
- Process and interpret information from multiple sources (written or oral)
- Analyze and interpret abstract and concrete data
- Evaluate outcomes
- Problem solves.
- Prioritize tasks (e.g., time management)
- Use long-term memory
- Use short-term memory

Critical Thinking:

- Identify cause-effect relationships
- Plan/control activities (organizational skills)
- Sequence information
- Make decisions independently
- Adapt decisions based on new information
- Comprehend and follow instructions
- Follow a process from start to finish (e.g., two or more step instructions)
- Maintain sterile technique
- Promote and maintain patient and team safety

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Interpersonal Skills:

- Establish rapport with individuals (e.g., surgeons, staff members, and groups)
- Respect/value diversity in others
- Negotiate interpersonal conflict
- Demonstrate tolerance in working with others
- Function as part of a team

Communication Skills:

- Speak English
- Write English
- Listen/comprehend spoken/written word
- Collaborate with others (e.g., health care workers, peers)
- Comprehend and exhibit nonverbal communication
- Respond to others in an accepting and respectful manner
- Demonstrate calm and effective behavior and responses, especially during emergencies.