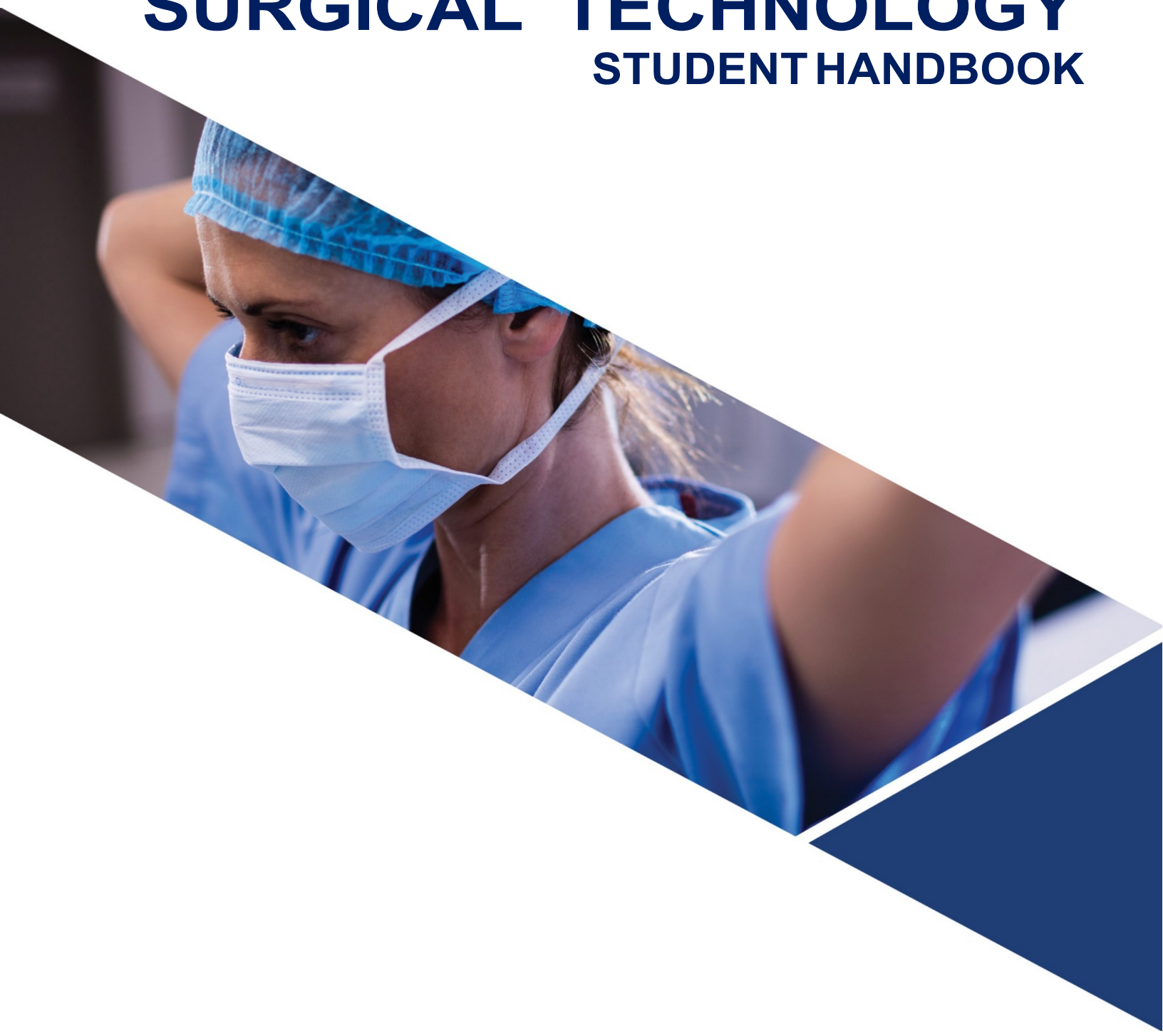


MIDWESTERN
CAREER
COLLEGE

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

STUDENT HANDBOOK





MIDWESTERN CAREER COLLEGE

Welcome students,

On behalf of all the faculty and staff here at MCC, we would like to welcome you to Midwestern Career College Surgical Technology Program. A surgical technologist is responsible for preparing the patient for surgery, assisting the surgeon, maintain a sterile environment with aseptic technique, and most importantly, be an essential part of the surgical team.

Our Associate degree program allows for you to touch on all aspects of aseptic technique, from the use of interactive lab skills to the provided online resources, that will enhance your overall student experience. Upon completing our program and externship, you will also be eligible to take the National Center for Competency Testing exam for Tech in Surgery-Certified. In addition to earning an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology, MCC offers you the opportunity to become a certified sterile processing technician through CBSPD. (The Certification Board of Sterile Processing and Distribution Inc.)

We encourage you to read this handbook and refer to this as a helpful guide. It provides and displays in detail, the expectations, and dedication needed to be successful and complete our program. All our faculty and staff here at Midwestern Career College, are here to support and encourage you and answer any questions that may arise along your new path. Again, we welcome you and wish luck on your journey.

Best regards,
Stacie Chaney, CST, FAST, AAS
Program Director of Surgical Technology

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Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology Program

Mission Statement

Midwestern Career College, Associates of Applied Science in Surgical Technology program's mission statement is **to provide premier career-focused education in surgical technology to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.**

Program Objectives

The Surgical Technology Program prepares students to:

- Communicate and interact as effective members of the surgical team;
- Demonstrate the ability to practice independent clinical judgments under the supervision of the surgeon or registered nurse;
- Demonstrate a knowledge base in surgical technology to function as an entry-level surgical technologist;
- Pass the certification examination;
- Assume responsibility for lifelong learning following graduation;
- Demonstrate professional, ethical and legal principles of surgical technology practice;
- Demonstrate knowledge of pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative surgical case management in the role of surgical technologist;
- Assume a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, pride, teamwork, and enthusiasm;
- Incorporate learned competencies to assemble and operate instrument, equipment, and supplies for the delivery of patient care as an entry-level practitioner during basic surgical procedures;
- Demonstrate the application of the principles of asepsis and surgical conscience in a knowledgeable manner that provides optimal patient care in the operating room.

Program Goals

The Surgical Technology Program prepares competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

Cognitive

- Prepare students to successfully complete the Surgical Technology Certifying Examination;
- Correlate the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and microbiology to the student's role as surgical technologists;

- Prepare students to function in the role of an entry-level surgical technologist in a professional, caring and ethical manner when providing patient care.

Psychomotor

- Discuss, demonstrate and apply appropriate surgical technology protocols and procedures in various situations within the healthcare setting
- Demonstrate safe, practical techniques in perioperative routine, patient transportation, positioning, and emergency procedures;
- Demonstrate, and apply principles of surgical asepsis as part of the perioperative setting;
- Provide the community with professional, and competent employees in the role of entry-level surgical technologists.

Affective

- Promote life-long learning fostering the development of professional and personal growth, critical thinking and leadership;
- Practice professional, ethical principles, legal standards, value-directed actions based on didactic and clinical knowledge as members of the surgical team.

Program Directory

Name	Title	Email	Location
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Description of the Profession

Surgical technologists (ST) are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings

The surgical technologists work under the medical supervision to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. The operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

The surgical technologist possesses expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combines the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

Surgical Technologist Education

The preferred entry-level education for the surgical technologist is the associate degree; all programs are expected to meet the minimum curriculum requirements as defined in the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology.

Role of the Surgical Technologist in Surgery

The ST is responsible for three phases of patient care, otherwise known as surgical case management, with minimal direction or supervision from their team members. All team members must adhere to the principles of asepsis and the practice of sterile technique. It is necessary for the team to have the moral integrity to uphold these standards.

The ST must display a caring attitude toward the patient, surgical team members, and the care environment. It is necessary to understand anatomy and physiology, the pathological condition affecting the patient, the planned operative procedure and consider any variations that may be necessary to accommodate a specific patient.

The ST functions in a sterile capacity during the surgical procedure but also performs many non-sterile duties throughout the course of the workday. Some non-sterile duties include, but not limited to the collection of equipment, supplies, assisting with patient positioning and other duties as assigned.

Professional Conduct

ST students at MCC are being educated to serve the community; therefore, it is expected that they will conduct themselves in a professional manner in all settings in which they are representing the College, including but not limited to the classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas. This policy is in addition to, not a replacement for the Code of Conduct explained in the MCC Catalog.

Professional conduct includes, but is not limited to, punctuality, respect for other people, their property, and their right to learn. It also includes appropriate respect for those in authority. As a student of the Surgical Technology Program, such conduct is expected that will not bring criticism to oneself, the program or the school.

In any public place, the student is potentially exposed to the patients' relatives and friends. Therefore, students are to be mindful of the things discussed and their attitude around everyone at the clinical site. We expect the student to observe the following:

- **Honesty** – Being truthful in communication with others.
- **Trustworthiness** – Maintaining the confidentiality of patient information; admitting errors and not intentionally misleading others or promoting self at the patient's expense.
- **Professional Demeanor** – Being thoughtful and professional when interacting with patients and their families; striving to maintain composure under pressure or fatigue, professional stress or personal problems; maintaining a neat and clean appearance and dressing in attire that is reasonable and accepted as professional to the patient population served.
- **Respect for the Rights of Others** – Dealing with professional staff and peer members of the health team in a considerate manner and with a spirit of cooperation; acting with respect toward all persons encountered regardless of age, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, gender, sexual preference, socioeconomic status or veteran/Reserve/National Guard status; Respecting the rights of patients and their families to be informed and share in patient care decisions; respecting patients' modesty and privacy.
- **Personal Accountability** – Participating responsibly in-patient care to the best of your ability and with appropriate supervision; undertaking clinical duties and persevering until they are complete; notifying the responsible person if something interferes with your ability to perform clinical tasks effectively.
- **Concern for the Welfare of Patients** – Treating patients and their families with respect and dignity both in their presence and in discussions with others; discerning accurately when supervision or advice is needed and seeking these out before acting. Recognizing when your ability to function effectively is compromised and asking for relief or help; not using alcohol or drugs in a way that could compromise patient care or your own performance; not engaging in romantic, sexual, or other nonprofessional relationships with a patient, even upon the apparent request of a patient.
- **Promptness** - It is expected that students arrive on time to classes, labs and clinical rotations at all times.

Guidelines for Use of Surgical Technology Laboratory

The Surgical Technology laboratory provides students a setting to practice and demonstrate skills in a mock operating room setting. Use of surgical equipment, instrumentation and supplies are restricted to students enrolled in the surgical technology program.

If the student is using the laboratory during non-scheduled times, a student is required to:

- Email the program director at schaney@mccollege.edu indicating that you wish to come to the lab for practice; receive written permission from PD
- Sign in at the front reception area;
- Disclose the names of anyone who is with you in the lab area;
- Return all equipment to original location and status when finished;
- Dispose of trash and any sharps in the recommended method;
- Sign out at the front desk area.

Due to the nature of the environment and the presence of sharp instruments, the presence of children is strictly prohibited in the surgical technology laboratory.

Clinical Policies and Procedures

The following policies include expectations, regulations, policies, and procedures pertaining to experience in the clinical practice area. An orientation at each clinical site will facilitate the review of policies specific to that particular site. Failure to comply with policies may result in removal from the clinical site or other academic and disciplinary actions.

Externship Packet Documentation

Each program cohort has an established due date for externship packet submission. The due date is announced to students during the New Student Orientation.

A complete externship packet containing all the documentation is listed in the MCC Externship Handbook and must be submitted by the due date. Students who fail to submit a complete externship packet by the established due date will be unregistered from the externship course. Partial or incomplete packet submissions will not be accepted.

Background Check

Students must complete a background check as part of the MCC admission process. A felony on student record will not necessarily disqualify the student from consideration for admission. However, it can adversely affect the student's ability to complete the Externship course and meet program completion requirements, find employment in the field related to their education, or take professional certification exams in the medical professions. MCC encourages students to consider their personal history to make the appropriate education and career choices.

The majority of MCC's affiliated sites will accept a background check completed within a year of assignment at the clinical site. However, some sites may require a more recent background check completed before the start of clinical rotation. Any expenses incurred for the additional background check will be the responsibility of the student.

Drug Screening

Some of MCC's affiliated sites require students to obtain and pass a drug screening before placement. If problems arise with a student's drug screening, the student will not be permitted to attend the Externship course which will result in program withdrawal.

Externship Experiences

During clinical rotation, the students will perform techniques in a supervised surgical environment, interact with the patients and surgical staff, and use real-world surgical instrument and equipment.

Competencies

First scrub role

Student's must meet the following criteria to considered and document as a first scrub role:

- Perform the following duties during the assigned surgical case with proficiency;
- Verify supplies and equipment needed for the surgical procedure;
- Set up the sterile field with instrument, supplies, equipment, medication (s) and solutions needed for the procedure;
- Perform counts with the circulator prior to the procedure and before the incision is closed;
- Pass instruments and supplies to the sterile surgical team members during the procedure;
- Maintain sterile technique as measured by a recognized break in technique;
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to correct with appropriate technique.

Second scrub role

Scrub in the sterile field but does not meet all the criteria for the first scrub role but actively participates in the surgical case in its entirety by completing any of the following:

- Sponging
- Suctioning
- Cutting suture
- Holding retractors
- Manipulating endoscopic camera

Observation role

A student who is in the operating room but does not perform a role that meets the criteria for the first or second scrub role must document the cases as an observation.

The observation cases cannot be included in the minimum case requirement but must be documented.



Clinical Case Requirements for Program Completion

In addition to meeting college's graduation requirements, students enrolled in AAS in Surgical Technology program must complete a minimum of 140 clinical cases as outlined below. If a student does not meet the clinical case requirements, the student will be withdrawn from the program.

Students must complete a minimum of 140 cases as delineated below.

Surgical Specialty	Minimum #1 st Scrub Role Required	Maximum #2 nd Scrub Role	Total Cases Required
General Surgery	40	10	50
Surgical Specialties	60 (20 must be Ortho)	30	90 (20 must be Ortho)
Diagnostic Endoscopy	-	(10 can be included in 2 nd scrub count)	
Vaginal Delivery	-	(5 can be included in 2 nd scrub count)	
Total	100	40	140

General Surgery cases

Students must complete a minimum of 50 cases in General Surgery; 40 which must be performed in the First Scrub role. The remaining 10 cases may be performed in either the First or Second Scrub role.

Specialty Cases

Students must complete a minimum of 90 cases in various surgical specialties, excluding General Surgery; 60 which must be performed in the First Scrub Role 20 of these must be in Orthopedics. The additional 30 cases may be performed in either the First or Second Scrub role.

- A minimum of 60 surgical specialty cases must be performed in the First Scrub role and distributed amongst a minimum of four surgical specialties, including Orthopedics.
- A minimum of 10 cases in the First Scrub role must be completed in each of the required minimum of four surgical specialties (40 cases total required).
- The additional 20 cases in the First Scrub role may be distributed amongst any one surgical specialty or multiple surgical specialties.
- The remaining 30 surgical specialty cases may be performed in any surgical specialty in either the First or Second Scrub role.

Optional Surgical Specialties

Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory. However, up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases and 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted toward the maximum number of Second Scrub Role cases. Case experience in the Second Scrub Role is not mandatory.

- Diagnostic endoscopy cases must be documented in the category of “Diagnostic Endoscopy” rather than by specialty.
- Vaginal delivery cases must be documented in the category of “Labor and Delivery” rather than the OB/GYN specialty.

Counting Cases

Cases will be counted and documented according to surgical specialty (exception being diagnostic endoscopic cases).

Examples of counting cases

- Trauma patient requires a splenectomy and repair of a LeFort I fracture. Two cases can be counted and documented since the splenectomy is general surgery and repair of LeFort I is oral-maxillofacial surgical specialty.
- Patient requires a breast biopsy followed by a mastectomy. It is one pathology, breast cancer, and the specialty is general surgery; therefore it is counted and documented as one procedure and one case.
- Endoscopic cases that convert to an open case (e.g. Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy converted to an Open Cholecystectomy) are counted and documented as one procedure

Blood/Body Fluid Exposure

This procedure is to be followed if a student is involved in a blood/body fluid exposure incident:

- The clinical instructor or designated supervisor immediately assists the student in cleansing the wound or affected area with soap and water or irrigating splash area (i.e., eyes, mucous membranes) with normal saline or water. If eyes have been splashed, flush 15 minutes at eyewash station with wash bottle or saline;
- Follow facility protocols for exposure, ie. Emergency room visit, employee health;
- Notify the surgical technology program director or clinical instructor assigned to you; school incident report must be completed;
- The facility will assist the student in filling out all necessary documentation forms and will coordinate any necessary follow-up according to their exposure policy;
- Costs incurred by a student’s blood and body fluid exposure are the student’s responsibility.

Electronic Device Use (Clinical)

A student shall not have a cell phone or any other electronic device during clinical activities unless approved by the Clinical Instructor. These devices are disruptive to the OR environment and should only be utilized during breaks and in allowable areas per the clinic’s policies. Failure to follow this policy may result in dismissal from the clinical site and could result in disciplinary action.

Dismissal from a Clinical Site

This policy is in addition to not a replacement for the Termination of Externship Assignment policy in the

Externship Handbook.

Any request by a clinical site to remove (temporary or permanently) a student from the site because of the student's behavior or performance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Program Director will investigate the situation and together with the Director of Clinical Externships render a decision on the outcome. Depending on the nature of the clinical dismissal, actions may range from putting in place a clinical performance contract, placement at a new clinical site, required make-up time, clinical probation, or program dismissal. If a student is removed from the clinical site, immediate and/or future clinical placement is not guaranteed. In some cases, a student's clinical experience may be delayed

depending on clinical availability. Due to the variety of circumstances that involve the affective and psychomotor domains of learning, no one disciplinary standard can apply to all incidents. The nature and degree of disciplinary action taken will be based on the type and seriousness of the infraction, the student's academic and clinical record, and previous history of warnings/ disciplinary actions. Incidents that compromise patient safety or violate patient confidentiality (HIPAA) will have serious consequences.

Clinical Work Policy

All student activities associated with the curriculum, especially while students are completing clinical rotations, will be educational in nature. Students will not be substituted for hired staff personnel within the clinical institution, in the capacity of a surgical technologist.

Clinical Attendance

Students are required to follow the Externship Schedule and Attendance Policy listed in the Externship Handbook.

- Clinical attendance during inclement weather follows the Campus Closure Policy on the College website. In general, a student must make a personal decision if travel is safe. If the student decides it is not, the student should contact the site and the Director of Clinical Externships.

Clinical Procedures

- Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated. Tardiness is disruptive to the surgical department, therefore, if a student is more than 15 minutes late, and has not notified the clinical site, the clinical instructor has the authority to release the student from the clinical site and send them home. This will result in an eight-hour absence.
- Students are not permitted to leave the clinical site prior to the end of their clinical shift. If all cases have been completed, it is the student's responsibility to seek out other tasks and activities to support their clinical education.

Clinical Supervision

Prior to achieving competency in accordance with program standards, a student must be directly supervised by a qualified Surgical Technologist / Registered Nurse during all procedures. All students will follow the policy for supervision at the respective clinical site. After achieving competency in a procedure, the student is allowed to perform that procedure with indirect supervision. Key requirements:

- 1. All students must be supervised by a preceptor from the clinical site while in the scrub role during operative procedures.
 - a. Direct supervision indicates that the preceptor also is in the scrub role and immediately available to assume the first scrub position during the operative case.
 - b. Indirect supervision is defined as a qualified Surgical Technologist being immediately available in the room to assist the student if needed. This applies to all students regardless of student achievement.

- 2. Students are not to perform surgical procedures without a qualified Surgical Technologist present in the room during the procedure.
- 3. Any student who finds himself or herself without proper supervision must immediately notify the Clinical Supervisor at the site, the Director of Clinical Externship, or the Program Director.

Surgical Technology Dress Code

All students are expected to adhere to a clinical dress code policy. If a clinical site's standards are more stringent, they will supersede the program policies. Clothing worn to and from the clinical site should be program scrubs.

Appropriate uniform requirements include:

- Student identification badge;
- Clean, comfortable shoes that will be covered with shoe covers;
- Scrubs will be provided at the clinical site. No personal clothing such as scrub jackets or hats laundered at home will be allowed at the clinical site;
- Protective eyewear will be worn at all times during operative cases;
- Identification badges must be worn at clinical sites.

In addition to the attire described above, the student should be mindful of the following expectations:

- Hair shall be neat, clean, well-trimmed and properly combed at all times;
- Mustaches and beards must be neatly trimmed (for safety). If a student does not have a mustache and/or beard, the student's face must be clean-shaven. Recommendations for mask and hat worn during surgery at your clinical location should be adhered to;
- Hands and teeth are to be clean at all times. Fingernails should be clean and trimmed. Fingernail polish is not permitted during clinical rotations. Decorative or studded fingernails are not allowed. False fingernails of any type are strictly prohibited;
- Necklaces or any kind are not recommended in the surgical area as they may become dislodged and threaten sterility of case. One pair of stud earrings may be worn if tucked under a surgical hat. All rings must be removed prior to completing surgical scrub. It is highly recommended that jewelry is left at home. MCC and your clinical site are not responsible for lost/stolen personal items;
- Visible body piercing (including tongue piercing) is not acceptable.

A clinical site reserves the right to send a student home if the student does not comply with the requirements of the site or the Program.

Student Responsibility Statement

By enrolling in the Surgical Technology Program, I have read and understand the Surgical Technology Program Handbook and will abide by all policies.

I understand that the policies and procedures contained in this Handbook are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Program Director.

I acknowledge that the Program Director will attempt to notify me of any changes in a timely manner, but that I am ultimately responsible for being familiar with the most current version of all policies in the Program Handbook available on the College website.

I accept the responsibility to understand requirements for my degree program and I assume responsibility for meeting those requirements.