



DIPLOMA IN SURGICAL ASSISTANT

CIP Code: 51-0909

Program Mission

Congruent to the American College of Surgeons statement, the surgical assistant training program prepares learners to participate in and actively assist the surgeon in completing the operation safely and expeditiously by helping provide exposure, maintain hemostasis, and serve other technical functions. After completing surgical assistant diploma, graduates will qualify as certified surgical assistants with specialties in orthopedic, neuro, spinal, otolaryngology, obstetrical, gynecological, craniofacial, radial neck, genitourinary, cardiac, thoracic, vascular, trauma, plastic, and ophthalmologic surgery.

The Stellar Career College's Diploma in Surgical Assistant further prepares students to learn various techniques such as traction/counter traction, instrument handling, surgically ambidextrous, tying techniques, suture selection, proper stitch placement, and tissue-handling techniques. They will also be instructed to be proficient in instrument-handling techniques that include placing and holding a retractor, ringed instruments, needle holder, scissors, forceps, using fine forceps (vascular/micro), electrocautery pencil, instrument tie, using instruments for grip/preventing knot slippage, and instruments for length

Moreover, the surgical assistant training program aims to develop students' psychomotor skills and hand/eye coordination using a basic wound closure home-study training system.

Program Description

Surgical assistants (SA) are allied health practitioners who provide aid in exposure, wound closure, bleeding control, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the surgical patient. The surgical assistant performs these tasks under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations. Surgical first assistants interact with surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and other health care staff. They work very closely

with patients of all ages. Surgical assistants (SA) have these responsibilities before, during, and after surgical procedures.

The Diploma in Surgical Assistant prepares students to become surgical first assistants or surgical assistants. The program curriculum consists of surgical first assistant principles and procedures, care of patients in surgery, surgical skills lab, surgery pharmacology, and surgical instrumentation. Students are trained to anticipate the needs of the surgical team and, during an operation, assist the surgeon with tasks such as selecting equipment, holding open incisions, stopping bleeding, and closing the incision, among many other technical tasks.

Program Details

Course Duration

12 Months

Quarter Credit Hours

54

Program Curriculum

- **Technical Courses** 54 Quarter Credit Hours

Program Learning Outcomes

The learners of the Surgical assistant diploma training program will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of aseptic techniques in relation to the procedures and the operating field
- Maintain an extensive knowledge of anatomy and physiology
- Communicate the surgeon's preferences and specific patient needs to surgical team
- Position the patient to provide the necessary exposure for the procedure, as well as the surgeon's preference
- Prepping the surgical site and draping the patient
- Provide intraoperative skills such as visualization, trocar insertion, and injection of local anesthetics, hemostasis, tissue handling, placement and securing of wound drains, and closure of body planes
- Acquire knowledge of and using all open, laparoscopic, and robotic equipment necessary for a procedure
- Be proficient in technical skills required during a surgical procedure, including, but not limited to: clamping, cauterizing, suturing, inserting, injecting, manipulating, retracting, cutting, and ligating tissue as necessary
- Be proficient in instrument-handling techniques
- Utilize appropriate suturing techniques, according to surgeon preference, to close the incision at the end of the procedure

- Provide postoperative skills in patient care such as applying dressings to surgical wounds, patient transfer and transport, transfer of care, and monitoring for immediate complications
- Closure of all wound layers (fascia, subcutaneous and skin) and prepare ACL graft as directed by the surgeon
- Assist in the following: laparoscopic procedures (with camera and instrumentation), endoscopic procedures, OB-Gyn surgery, neurosurgery (back, neck and brain procedures), vascular procedures, thoracic procedures, orthopedic surgery (open and arthroscopic), plastic surgery, ENT surgery, robotic surgery, CPR of patient during a cardiac arrest, retracting tissue per surgeon's directive, placement and suturing of surgical drains
- Maintain and update his/her knowledge of surgical instruments and equipment
- Gown and glove self-using open and closed gloving technique
- Placement of pneumatic tourniquet and urinary catheter
- Use of electrocautery both monopolar and bipolar
- Assists in maintaining hemostasis by direct pressure, use and application of appropriate surgical instruments for the task, placement of ties and suture ligatures, application of chemical hemostatic agents, or other measures as directed by the surgeon
- Collaborate with others to provide continuity of care.

Program Career Opportunity

The Stellar Career College's certified surgical first assistant programs Indiana open a wide array of opportunities for students that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Surgical Assistant
2. Endoscopy Surgical Assistant
3. Veterinarian Surgical Assistant
4. Dental Assistant - Surgical Assistant
5. Surgical Assist, Cardiothoracic
6. Surgical Assistant - Operating Room
7. Physician Assistant Cardiothoracic Surgical Assist

Program Completion

A diploma will be awarded to those students who will successfully complete all required courses as per college's Satisfactory Academic Requirements and fulfill their financial obligation towards the college.

To become eligible to challenge the national certification exam in surgical assistant through ARRT, students must complete the following requirements:

- Complete Stellar Career College's ARRT-recognized educational program in surgical assistant
- Must demonstrate competency in formal classroom education (didactic coursework), and program's clinical requirements.

ARRT Obligations

ARRT enforces high standards of ethics and professional conduct. Students must comply with everything in the ARRT Standards of Ethics, including the Rules of Ethics. You must notify ARRT of any ethics violations within 30 calendar days of their occurrence. Applicants who don't follow these rules might become ineligible. Several types of misconduct, charges, and convictions may violate ARRT's Rules of Ethics. For further details on this matter, please refer to ARRT's handbook, which is available at arrt.org.

Program Format

The College will offer this program in on-ground format as well as in hybrid format in which students can take up to 45% of the courses using online delivery method. Students enrolled in this program will receive the basic wound closure home-study training system. This system includes the following:

- Wound Closure Lab with carrying case
- Multi-Layered Abdominal Simulated Tissues
- Instruments: Scalpel, Forceps, Needle Holders and Suture Scissors
- Practice Suture
- Penrose Drain for drain securing practice
- Practice ties and 3-0 Silk for knot tying practice
- Tying under pressure simulator
- Online wound closure Instructional video instruction