Can Men be Surgical Technologists?  **YES!**

“There is something very gratifying in knowing that you’ve risen above the doubts and have earned the respect of your peers by doing your best.”

Tony Navarrete
graduate of the CSI surgical technology program

Regardless of Gender Surgical technologists need to:

- Count sponges, needles, and instruments before and after surgery.
- Pass instruments and other supplies to surgeons and assistants. Hold retractors and cut sutures.
- Help surgical team scrub and put on gloves, gowns, and masks.
- Prepare patients for surgery.
- Transport patients to operating room. Help position patients on the table.
- Operate equipment, such as lights or suction machines.
- Wash and sterilize instruments.
- Help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for lab analysis.
- Clean and restock the operating room.
- Help apply dressings.
- Observe patients’ vital signs.
- Assemble, adjust, and check non-sterile equipment to ensure it works properly.
- Monitor operating room conditions, and patient and surgical team needs.
- Maintain supplies of fluids, such as blood, plasma, or saline.
- Maintain records of surgical procedures.
- Help set up the operating room with surgical instruments and equipment. Gather sterile linens and solutions.
- Help transfer patients to the recovery room.

Idaho Wages

**Hourly Range** $12.43 to $22.87

**Median Wage** $16.46

Preparation

To work as a Surgical Technologist, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete a surgical technology program;
- have good manual dexterity; and
- work well under pressure.

11 months of training with a Technical Certificate is offered at the College of Southern Idaho

Idaho Employment

241 jobs—small occupation

35.7% annual growth

12 annual jobs open

Nationally, men make up 20% of the labor force.  
*Source: US Dept of Labor (2006)*

Job Outlook

The number of surgeries performed each year is expected to increase. This increase will be due in part to a growing and aging population. Older people generally require more surgical procedures. In addition, advances in technology will make new surgical procedures available.

It is important for surgical technologists to be able to:

- Hold the arm and hand in one position or hold the hand steady while moving the arm.
- See details of objects that are less than a few feet away.
- Understand the speech of another person.
- Use fingers or hands to grasp, move, or assemble objects.
- Speak clearly so listeners can understand.
- Make quick, precise adjustments to machine controls.
- Move two or more limbs together (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while remaining in place.
- Use stomach and lower back muscles to support the body for long periods without getting tired.

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