



GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE **SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT CST/TSC BRIDGE PROGRAM**

PROGRAM INFORMATION





CST / TS-C to SFA Bridge

Surgical First Assistant Program

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Gulf Coast State College **Surgical First Assistant** Program! We are located in beautiful Panama City, FL, just minutes to the emerald green waters and white sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico.

The surgical services faculty and staff are very proud of the exceptional program and state-of-the-art Surgical Services Lab, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have as you begin your new career as a Surgical First Assistant. We are proud to offer the CST/TS-C to SFA Bridge program for current certified Surgical Technologists.

If you have not already applied for admission to Gulf Coast State College, you should do this **first** by contacting Enrollment Services at (850) 872-3892 or by visiting https://connect.gulfcoast.edu/portal/application_portal. This will not only start the college admissions process but will also permit you access to a variety of services available at the college. We also invite you to visit our program website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/academic-divisions/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html> to better familiarize yourself with all aspects of our educational programs.

We are grateful you are considering Gulf Coast State College for your educational needs. If you have any questions or need to schedule an advising appointment, please contact:

- Brittany Page, Program Coordinator, (850) 873-3551
- Ashley Krawczynski, Assistant Coordinator, (850) 769-1551, ext. 5881
- Connie "Crickett" Pimentel, Academic Programs Specialist, (850) 913-3311
- Rebecca Acton, Senior Administrative Assistant, (850) 873-3589

Sincerely,

Brittany Page

Brittany Page, BAS, CST, CSFA
Program Coordinator, Surgical Services
Gulf Coast State College
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Surgical First Assistant Program

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment for surgical technologists and surgical assistants is growing faster than the national average for all occupations.

CTS/TS-C to SFA Bridge program

- Designed for the **experienced Certified Surgical Technologists (CST/TS-C) and military-trained surgical technologists maintaining the CST credential**
 - CST/TS-C applicants can receive up to a maximum of 45 external credits and will enter the program as a 2nd-year student
- Two completion options:
 - College Credit Certificate (59 credits)
 - Associate of Science Degree (74 credits)
- Enrollment
 - January; **Application deadline by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on November 1, 2025**
 - May; **Application deadline by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on March 9, 2026**
 - August; **Application deadline by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on June 2, 2026**
- Course delivery:
 - Didactic courses are delivered via online format/distance learning
 - One 4-day lab week completed on campus at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, FL. Lab week is mandatory and is offered in spring, summer, and fall.
 - Clinical experience is gained in the student's home area via an affiliation agreement.
- Upon successful program completion, students are eligible to take the certification examination to become a Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Please review the information contained within this application packet to learn about student responsibilities and technical standards required for the occupation as well as the job classification of the surgical assistant. Additional information regarding this exciting and rewarding career can be found at www.surgicalassistant.org, the official website of the Association of Surgical Assistants.

Field Description

As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the Surgical First Assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. In addition to intraoperative duties, the Surgical First Assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate proper patient care. The Surgical First Assistant gives assistance to the surgeon during the operation and does so under the direction and supervision of that surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations.

In general, Surgical First Assistants have the following responsibilities:

- Determine specific equipment needed per procedure
- Review surgical permit to confirm procedure and special needs
- Select and placement of X-rays for reference
- Assist in moving and positioning of patient
- Insert and remove Foley urinary bladder catheter
- Place pneumatic tourniquet
- Confirm procedure with the surgeon
- Drape patient within the surgeon's guidelines
- Provide retraction of tissue and organs for optimal visualization with regard to tissue type and appropriate retraction instrument and/or technique

Field Description – cont'd

- Assist in maintaining hemostasis by direct pressure, use and application of an appropriate surgical instrument for the task, placement of ties, placement of suture ligatures, application of chemical hemostatic agents, or other measures as directed by the surgeon
- Use electrocautery mono and bipolar
- Clamp, ligate, and cut tissue per surgeon's directive
- Harvest saphenous vein, including skin incision per surgeon's directive
- Dissect common femoral artery and bifurcate per surgeon's directive
- Maintain integrity of sterile field
- Close all wound layers (facia, subcutaneous and skin) per surgeon's directive
- Insert drainage tubes per surgeon's directive
- Select and apply wound dressings
- Assist with resuscitation of patient during cardiac arrest or other life-threatening events in the operating room
- Perform any other duties or procedures incident to the surgical procedure deemed necessary and as directed by the surgeon

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Surgical First Assistant Program take the first step toward becoming an integral part of the surgical team. Hospitals, outpatient surgery clinics, private practice, and other surgical centers are extremely interested in hiring skilled individuals to assist in surgical procedures to promote optimal patient outcomes. There are many areas of surgery that rely on quality assisting. Surgical First Assistants learn skills for a variety of surgery specialties:

- Cardiovascular surgery
- General surgery
- Genitourinary surgery
- Head and neck surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic surgery
- Plastic surgery
- Robotic surgery
- Spinal surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Trauma surgery
- Vascular surgery

Advanced surgical first assistants gain respect of peers, become members of various professional organizations and create opportunities within the workforce.

Earnings Potential

Based on salary information gathered in May 2023 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall median average salary for a Surgical First Assistant in Florida is \$72,250.

Professional Organizations

- Association of Surgical Assistants: <https://www.surgicalassistant.org/>
- National Surgical Assistant Association: <https://www.nsaa.net>

Gulf Coast State College Consumer Information Notification

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 is a federal law which authorizes student aid programs. Reauthorizations of this act prescribe disclosure requirements for institutions wishing to participate in the federal student aid program. As a prospective student or enrolled student of GCSC you have a right to the following consumer and safety information. Paper copies of this information will be provided upon request to the Financial Aid Office. Please call (850) 872-3845 or visit the Financial Aid Office in person if you have any questions.

- General disclosures, including GCSC's report on athletic program participation rates and financial support data, is found at: <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid/consumer-information.html>
- Info on financial aid available to students is found at: <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid>
- GCSC's annual Security Report is found at: <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/campus-life/campus-safety/clery-act.html>
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is found at <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/ferpa.html>

Program-specific GCSC Gainful Employment (GE) webpage:

- Surgical First Assistant Certificate GE Information, click on the specific program Surgical First Assistant: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/ge/sfa>

Professional Licensure

If applicants or students are earning an online degree while residing outside of the state of Florida, Gulf Coast State College will provide them with current contact information for any applicable licensing boards and will help them determine whether the program meets the requirements for licensure in the state where they are located.

Gulf Coast State College Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant Programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This Disclosure is strictly limited to GCSC's determination of whether the Program if successfully completed, would be sufficient to meet the educational licensure requirements in a State, as defined as 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. GCSC cannot provide verification of an individual's ability to meet licensure requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

This Disclosure does not provide any guarantee that any particular State licensure entity will approve or deny your application. Furthermore, this Disclosure does not account for changes in state law or regulation that may affect your application for licensure and occur after this disclosure has been made. Enrolled students and prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact their State's licensure entity to review all licensure or certification requirements imposed by their State(s) of choice.

In accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 668.43, GCSC has determined the Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant programs meet the educational licensure requirements for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US protectorates, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2.

It is strongly encouraged that students, applicants, and prospective students determine any additional requirements for licensure in the State in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding State licensure can be found at:

https://www.ast.org/Public_Policy/Legislative_Overview/

<https://assa.memberclicks.net/surgical-assistant-legislative-efforts>

<https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/online/professional-licensure-disclosure.html>

If you need assistance or have any questions, please get in touch with Brittany Page at bpage2@gulfcoast.edu or (850) 873-3551.

Accreditations

Gulf Coast State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), 1866 Southern Lane; Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; Phone: 1-404-679-4500; Fax: 1-404-679-4558. Website: www.sacscoc.org; <http://sacscoc.org/membershipInfo.asp>

The Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 9353 – 113th ST. N, #7709 Seminole, FL 33775; Phone: 727-210-2350; website: www.caahep.org

CAAHEP-ARC/STSA Standards

All programs are required to publish the approved Outcomes Assessment Exam (OAE) pass-rate from the program's most recently submitted Annual Report. Students take the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assisting Examination to become dually certified as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) and Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) which are both nationally recognized as accredited certifications.

| Surgical First Assistant School Year | CAAHEP Annual Report Year | Certification Pass Rate | NBSTSA National Average |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8/1/2023 - 7/31/2024 | 2025 | 77.4% | 78.2% |
| 8/1/2022 - 7/31/2023 | 2024 | 75% | 73% |
| 8/1/2021 - 7/31/2022 | 2023 | 100% | 70.6% |
| 8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021 | 2022 | 82.35% | 73.5% |

| Surgical Technology School Year | CAAHEP Annual Report Year | Certification Pass Rate | NBSTSA National Average |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8/1/2023 - 7/31/2024 | 2025 | 70% | 69.1% |
| 8/1/2022 - 7/31/2023 | 2024 | 100% | 70% |
| 8/1/2021 - 7/31/2022 | 2023 | 100% | 70.6% |
| 8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021 | 2022 | 100% | 73.7% |

Criminal Background Checks

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students that are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Please Note: Be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/> for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Student applicants DO NOT complete background checks until provisionally accepted into the CST/TS-C to SFA Bridge Program. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be given to you in your conditional acceptance email.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.

- (1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare profession is prohibited.
- (2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the candidate or applicant:
 - (a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a pretrial diversion or drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:
 1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
 2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
 3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;
 - (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;
 - (c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
 - (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or
 - (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

The following disqualifying offenses under current Florida law for healthcare licensure. The individual must not be awaiting final disposition of charges related to disqualifying offenses. The individual must not have been found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, nor have entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or guilty to any disqualifying offense. If the individual was adjudicated delinquent for a disqualifying offense, the record must have been sealed or expunged; otherwise, it remains a disqualifying factor.

The disqualifications apply to applicable offenses under:

Relevant provisions of Florida State law **or** Similar laws in other jurisdictions (laws from other states or countries the applicant originates from).

Specifically, the following pending charges or convictions per statutes: 393.135, 394.4593, 794.011, 825.1025, 826.04, 916.1075, 985.701, 415.111, 825.102, 827.03, 825.103, 827.05, 827.04, 782.04, 782.07, 787.01, 787.02, 784.011, 784.03, 827.071, ch. 796, ch. 800, 798.02, 825.103, 787.025, 874.05, ch. 812, 817.563, ch. 893, 944.47, 985.711, 806.01, 810.02, 810.14, 796, 843.01, 843.025, 847, 944.35(3), 775.21, 775.261 and 943.0435.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

****A physical examination, criminal background check (Level II), and drug screening WILL be required prior to the official program acceptance.***

Re-Admission Guidelines:

1. A student who withdraws from or earns a grade lower than a "C" in any HSC or STS course will not be permitted to continue in the Surgical First Assistant Program. A student who does not meet the Core Performance Standards of the program will not be permitted to continue in the program. Opportunities to re-apply may be available upon consultation with the Program Coordinator.
2. Applicants who wish to apply for readmission should do so prior to June 1st if planning to enroll in the Fall semester, November 1st if planning to enroll in the Spring semester, and March 1st if planning to enroll in the Summer semester.
3. Readmission to the Surgical First Assistant Program will be dependent upon available resources.
4. In order to be considered for readmission by the Admissions Committee, the applicant must meet current guidelines for admission to the College and the Surgical First Assistant Program.
5. Readmission may be contingent upon the candidate's agreeing to the current academic standards and curriculum. **Students may not be re-admitted to the last semester they attended. Failed courses or incomplete courses must be completed again in their entirety.**
6. A student who applies for readmission to the Surgical First Assistant Program may be asked to provide significant evidence, which suggests the potential for future success in the program. This evidence may address such things as unusual circumstances, designated academic advising plan, remedial study, and/or additional preparation.
7. Students applying for re-admission will be required to submit new physical and health screenings, supporting documents, and obtain new background check/drug screening. Students must also obtain and maintain compliance in PreCheck / SentryMD.

Surgical Services Transfer Policy:

Applicants who wish to transfer from another Surgical Assisting Program to a GCSC Surgical First Assistant Program must:

- meet all current admission requirements,
- apply by the published application deadline,
- provide evidence of successful completion of previous core Surgical First Assistant courses from a CAAHEP-accredited program, and provide official transcripts to GCSC.

Acceptance of any transfer student will be dependent upon available resources. Transferability of GCSC Surgical First Assistant courses to another institution will be dependent upon the acceptance of the receiving institution.

CST/TS-C to SFA Bridge Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I get my clinical cases?

***Students will not be registered for the clinical course until they have completed STS 2330C with a minimum grade of "C". Students cannot count cases/hours until they are successfully registered, fees are paid, and start of designated semester.**

- a. Students will complete their clinical cases in their home area. **After provisional acceptance into the program, a clinical planning packet will be sent to you with the following documents to help you plan your clinical requirements.** After completion of the clinical application packet, including the following information, the Clinical Manager, Candace Marmolejo, will work with you to establish an affiliation agreement with your facility if one is not already in place.

2. How many specialties are required to complete the clinical cases?

- A **minimum** of 3: General Surgery and two other specialties.
- If you work with a surgeon, you can do a majority with that specialty surgeon.

3. What is the program format?

This is a distance education program for currently working surgical technologists certified through the NBSTSA as a CST or through NCCT as a TS-C. All the didactic courses are delivered through an online format with the exception of a 4-day Lab session for the course STS2330C, which provides skills assessment and hands-on instruction regarding your suturing and other skills for assisting. **This course is offered in the spring, fall and summer semesters. An email confirming the lab week dates is sent to students when the student is registered for the course.**

- a. You can transfer in previous prerequisite anatomy and physiology courses provided you earned **a total of 8 college credits from an accredited institution that included a hands-on lab segment.** Otherwise, you can complete your A&P with Labs (8 college credits) at your local college and transfer the credits to GCSC. As another alternative, you can complete them as a GCSC transient student (do not have to request transcripts to take the courses, etc.) at your local college or complete them online as offered for class and lab combination classes (BSC1085C and BSC1086C) using Florida Shines. Transient student status can be awarded after 15 credits taken at GCSC.
- b. **You must take 25% of the certificate or degree credits from Gulf Coast State College, which is 15 credits for the College Credit Certificate and 19 credits for the A.S. Degree.** We will work with you through advising to ensure you meet this requirement. If you are transferring credits, you will need to verify that your institution is accredited and acceptable for transfer through our Enrollment Services Office.

4. How long is the program?

- a. It is expected that **full time students should complete the college credit certification segment of the program within one year (3 semesters).**
 - i. The AS Degree general education classes can be taken after the CCC program is completed or concurrently.
- b. **Work must be submitted weekly in all courses.** All classes (current semester) must be completed with a minimum grade of a "C" to continue enrollment into the next semester.

5. How do I get experience when I graduate?

- a. Work for a hospital or surgery center
- b. Contact "surgical assisting" groups to see if you want to join their group.
- c. Familiarize yourself with the surgeons and their practice philosophy to determine if you would like to join their team.
- d. Attend the Association of Surgical Assistants workshops to network, obtain advanced CEs and learn about billing, etc.

CST/TS-C to SFA Bridge Application Requirements

***It is the Applicant's responsibility to make sure their application folder is complete prior to the application deadline.**

- _____ **Step 1. New students should apply for General Admission to GCSC – Choose Planned Course of Study.** Applications are available online at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/index.html>. You may also call or visit GCSC Enrollment Services to obtain information on the college admissions process, or call (850) 872-3892. Returning students who have not attended GCSC in the past year must re-apply for admission.

Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the HLSC – AA, Health Sciences, General Education as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited-access program.

To request a major change, visit <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>, and click on Program Major Change Form. Students declaring an unintended major for the sole purpose of receiving financial aid may be subject to penalties, including repayment of any financial aid received.

- _____ **Step 2. New students complete a free online College Orientation.** This must be completed prior to course registration. If not completed, a "hold" will be placed on the student's account. The online instructions can be found at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/index.html/admissions/new-student-orientation/index.html>

- _____ **Step 3. Submit the CST/TSC-C to SFA online application at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html>.** You will need to upload proof of age (copy of driver's license or personal ID required) with the online application.

- _____ **Step 4. Request OFFICIAL High School transcripts, or GED equivalent with scores, and have them sent electronically or via postal mail to GCSC Enrollment Services Office.** Evidence of high school graduation date must be on file to register for classes, per Florida law.

- _____ **Step 5. Request OFFICIAL transcripts from all colleges attended, and have them sent to GCSC Enrollment Services.** These must be received and evaluated by Enrollment Services before the application can be considered. Transcript information can be found at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/transcripts.html>.

NOTE:

When applying to the program, if you have any type of degree including a Bachelor's Degree or higher, any course substitutions must be made on an External Credit Evaluation form. You must request this analysis of your transcripts with the Enrollment Services Office.

*In order for credits to transfer, the college or university must be accredited by a regional or nationally accepted accreditation program as approved by GCSC policies as outlined by the Florida State Department of Education and SACS/ CAAHEP (Accreditation Standards). **Please verify that the course(s) you will be taking from other institutions (a regionally accredited institution) qualify for transfer prior to enrollment in that course.***

- _____ **Step 6. Demonstrate competency in Math/Algebra, English, and Reading using one of the following methods:**

| Subject | CLT | PERT | ACT | SAT | College Course |
|--------------|-----|------|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| Math/Algebra | ≥16 | ≥114 | ≥19 | ≥480 or 24 (old) | Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix MAC, MGF, or STA |
| English | ≥38 | ≥103 | ≥17 | ≥490 in Critical Reading or 24 (old) | Completion of ENC 1101 with a grade of "C" or better |
| Reading | ≥38 | ≥106 | ≥19 | | |

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the above, and the test was **not** administered at GCSC, the applicant must have an **official** score report **mailed** to the GCSC Testing Center. Test scores that have been in the student's possession, regardless of whether they are "sealed", stamped, or in a sealed envelope are **not** considered official and will not be accepted. All applicants are responsible for ensuring their scores are received and posted to their GCSC record before the application deadline.

- _____ **Step 7. Begin Financial Aid, if needed, by visiting <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid/index.html>.**

After provisional acceptance into the Surgical First Assistant program, students are required to complete the following items before the first day of class. Students are responsible for the expenses associated with these items. Specific instructions will be provided in the acceptance packet.

1. Completion of BSC2085, BSC2085L, BSC2086, BSC2086L, and HSC1531 while active in the CST/TS-C to SFA Bridge program
2. Report of Vaccination History in PreCheck/SentryMD to include:
 - a. Hepatitis B surface antigen test
 - b. Hepatitis B vaccine series, if surface antigen is positive (or signed declination waiver)
 - c. PPD Mantoux/TB Test (may require chest radiograph if previously positive PPD Mantoux/TB test)
 - d. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
 - e. Varicella (Chicken Pox)
 - f. Tetanus-Diphtheria (Tetanus every 10 years)
 - g. Influenza (or signed declination)
 - h. COVID-19 (or signed declination)
 - i. Polio (or signed declination)
3. Copy of current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certificate (BLS for Healthcare Providers) by the AHA
4. Satisfactory fingerprint/criminal background check
5. Interprofessional Healthcare Training (every 2 years)
 - a. HIPAA
 - b. HIV/AIDS
 - c. Prevention of Medical Errors
 - d. Domestic Violence
 - e. Infection Control
 - f. Human Trafficking
 - g. Interprofessional Education
 - h. Airborne Precautions w/Mask Fit
6. Satisfactory physical examination (less than a year old) signed by a licensed physician/health care provider.
7. Satisfactory drug screening results

Student Planning Guide

Please complete, in full, and submit this form with your online application. As an Instructor, I want to be sure that you have been fully informed and understand the career field that you have chosen, so that you can be successful in the completion of this program. For further information about the profession, please visit the GCSC Surgical First Assistant program page at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html> or the Association of Surgical Assistants at <https://www.surgicalassistant.org/>. If you still have questions, please contact Brittany Page, Surgical Services Program Coordinator at bpage2@gulfcoast.edu, or 850.873.3551.

1. Name: _____ Student ID: A# _____

2. Describe what you can expect to earn as a Surgical First Assistant.

Per Hour _____ Per Year _____ Call pay if hospital setting? _____

In Florida or locally? _____ Do you want to travel? _____

What about other areas of the country? _____

3. Why do you want to be a Surgical First Assistant?

4. What are your goals 5 years from now?

BE SURE YOU HAVE THE TIME TO COMMIT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. Our goal is to help you plan for all of the things you will need to succeed. You need to plan for and consider these resources to minimize your stress and be successful. Do you currently have the following?

Family support:

Transportation:

Tuition/fee/supplies:

Living expenses/ bill management:

Computer resources for online segments (computer with camera, internet access, etc.)

Time Management

To be successful, you will need to allocate the following hours **per day**:

| | Low – High |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Homework | <u>2 - 3</u> hours |
| Class/lab/clinical | <u>4 - 8</u> hours |
| Sleep | <u>6 - 8</u> hours |
| Exercise/Time for Self | <u>½ - 1</u> hours |
| Work | <u> </u> hours |
| Family Time | <u> </u> hours |
| Eating | <u> </u> hours |
| Bathing | <u> </u> hours |
| Traveling to and from school | <u> </u> hours |
| Chores/Paying Bills | <u> </u> hours |
| Total Time | <u>24</u> hours |

What will be your time challenge?

How will you manage it?

COURSE ENROLLMENTS AND CURRICULUM PLAN (CCC & A.S. Degree)

Articulation for the CST/TS-C to SFA Student (CCC and AS Degree):

All students must demonstrate proof of 8 college credits of Anatomy and Physiology with labs either through transfer credits or course completion.

Students who maintain a nationally accredited certification as a surgical technologist (CST/TS-C) through the NBSTSA or NCCT can enter the SFA program via this GCSC Articulation as a second-year student. Up to 45 college credits may be awarded by submission of their portfolio and validated proof of a nationally accredited and current certification as a surgical technologist (CST/TS-C) and/or military proof of surgical technology training.

**Note: According to state law, Residency requires 25% of the program credits must be taken at GCSC (15 credits for CCC; 19 credits for AS Degree). However, if any of the above are transfer credits, the student may be required to take additional program classes to meet that residency requirement.*

| Course | CRN | Course Name | Credits | Semester Credits |
|--|---|--|---------|------------------|
| Semester 1: | HSC 2520 | Microbiology for Periop Services (Review) | 3 | 9 |
| | STS 1340C | Pharmacology and Anesthesia (Review) | 3 | |
| | STS 2954 | Surgical Technologist Portfolio II-EXTERNAL CREDIT | 1 | |
| | STS 2330C | Principles of Surgical Assisting | 2 | |
| | *HSC 1531 | *Medical Terminology can be taken this semester, as needed (2 credits) | | |
| Semester 2: | STS 2335 | Advanced Integrated Surgical Sciences | 2 | 7 |
| | STS 2336 | Advanced Integrated Surgical Sciences | 2 | |
| | STS 2361 | The Art of Teamwork in Surgery | 1 | |
| | STS 2370 | Surgical Assisting Clinical | 2 | |
| | | *A&P I with Lab, as needed (4 credits) | | |
| Semester 3: | STS 2365 | Professional Skills for the OR Team | 1 | 4 |
| | STS 2367 | Management in Healthcare | 2 | |
| | STS 2936 | Surgical Certification Symposium | 1 | |
| | | *A&P II with Lab, as needed (4 credits) | | |
| CCC Option-Total Credits (*including credits for A&P & Medical Terminology) | | | | 28 |
| CST/TS-C to SFA APPLICANT | | | | |
| AS DEGREE COURSE ENROLLMENTS AND CURRICULUM PLAN | | | | |
| In addition to the above courses, students seeking the AS Degree option will need to complete the following courses prior to graduation. | | | | |
| XXX XXXX | College-level Math (MAC, MGF, or STA prefix) | | 3 | |
| XXX XXXX | POS 2041 American National Government <u>or</u> *AMH 2010 United States History I <u>or</u> AMH 2020 United States History II <u>and</u> Civics Literacy Competency Exam | | 3 | |
| ENC 1101 | English Composition I | | 3 | |
| XXX XXXX | Course in Humanities I, II, or III (designated by • in College Catalog) | | 3 | |
| XXX XXXX | PSY 2012 Psychology <i>or</i> SYG 2000 Sociology | | 3 | |
| AS Degree – Total Credits (*including credits for A&P & Medical Terminology) | | | | 43 |

*AMH 2010 does not meet the course requirement if taken prior to Fall 2024.

**GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
FEE SCHEDULE****

| | <u>In-State</u> | <u>Out-of-State</u> |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>ENROLLMENT FEES</u> | | |
| Placement Tests (if needed) | \$ 9.00 | \$ 9.00 |
| GCSC - application fee (new students) | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Criminal Background Check (Level II) | \$ 85.00 | \$ 85.00 |
| PreCheck/SentryMD Drug Screening/Compliance Tracker | \$ 75.00 | \$ 75.00 |
| BridgesEXP (HCA Clinicals only) | \$ 40.00 | \$ 40.00 |
| Interprofessional Healthcare Training | \$ 120.00 | \$ 120.00 |
| <u>TEXTBOOK FEES</u> | | |
| Textbooks, list provided (approx.) | | |
| Required texts | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| <u>ASSOCIATION DUES</u> | | |
| Association Surgical First Assistant Student Fee | \$ 45.00 | \$ 45.00 |
| <u>TUITION FEES</u> | | |
| | (\$98.75/cc) | (\$359.71/cc) |
| CST/TS-C Applicant: | | |
| CCC-option (18 college credits) | \$ 1,777.50 | \$ 6,474.78 |
| * 8 credits A&P, if no transfer credits | \$ 790.00 | \$ 2,877.68 |
| AS Degree-Option (35 cc including Gen Ed courses) | | |
| * 8 credits A&P, if no transfer credits | \$ 3,456.25 | \$ 12,589.85 |
| | \$ 790.00 | \$ 2,877.68 |
| <u>LAB FEES</u> (includes student accident/liability insurance) | | |
| CST/TS-C Applicant: | | |
| STS2330C Principles Surg Assist Lab | \$ 354.00 | \$ 354.00 |
| STS2370 Surg. Assisting Clinical I | \$ 67.00 | \$ 67.00 |
| SUPPLIES/UNIFORMS: | <u>\$ 350.00**</u> | <u>\$ 350.00</u> |
| TOTAL PROGRAM FEES (APPROX.) | | |
| CST/TS-C Applicant: | | |
| College Credit Certificate | \$ 4,624.00 | \$ 11,408.96 |
| AS Degree | \$ 6,401.25 | \$ 17,622.53 |

The fee schedule includes approximate fees for the entire program. See current information available in the Enrollment Services Office. Anyone requiring financial aid must initiate arrangements with the Financial Aid Office. The refund policy is outlined in the current Gulf Coast State College Catalog.

** Fees listed above are based on the 2024-2025 academic year and are subject to change without notice due to price changes from the other requirements, manufacturer, or provider.