



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Terrina McKinnon, Committee Chair & Term Assistant Professor of Surgical Technology
Grace Leu Burke, Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Surgical Technology AAS

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): The Surgical Technology AAS is 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).

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:

The mission of the Surgical Technology AAS program is to prepare competent surgical technologists for successful employment in an operating room, assisting the surgeon and other members of the professional surgical team with patient care before, during, and after surgery. Surgical technologists are operating room specialists who perform specific duties for pre-, intra-, and postoperative case management. They are essential for the effective delivery of healthcare services. This program makes a strong contribution to the College of Health goal to meet the healthcare workforce needs in Alaska. Graduates of the AAS in Surgical Technology are eligible to sit for the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) examination. Once NBSTSA certified, graduates are eligible to apply for licensure. The Surgical Technology AAS is a relatively new program. The first cohort of students was accepted in fall 2017. Employment growth for surgical technologists is expected to be robust (+23.8%, with an average of 22 annual openings). The program maintains a strong connection to external partners.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:

Each student cohort includes 12 students. Most students successfully complete the program. The program maintains a good return on investment. In FY19, the full tuition revenues covered 88% of the instructional costs. Additional support is provided by industry partners.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:

The Surgical Technology AAS is 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). This accreditation is required for students to sit for the national certification examination and to then become licensed. To date, program outcomes are very good. The graduation rate is 94%, the certification examination pass rate is 87%, the employment rate is 100%, the student satisfaction rate is 96%, and the employer satisfaction rate is 90%. All of these exceed the national benchmarks. All (except the satisfaction rates) also exceed national averages. Overall, it is clear that the program is successful. However, the program must fully implement its Academic Assessment Plan. The program must commit itself to a more rigorous assessment process to identify, implement, and assess key recommendations for program improvements.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:

There are no other surgical technology education programs in the state of Alaska.

Commendations and Recommendations:

The Surgical Technology AAS was created in 2017 to address industry needs for surgical technologists. The employment growth for surgical technologists in Alaska is expected to be robust. With industry support, the program has been successful in preparing competent surgical technologists. As the program continues, it will need to allocate more effort to academic assessment. This will be essential to maintain the program's specialized accreditation and to remain successful in preparing competent surgical technologists.

Decision:

Continuation.