AAS, Surgical Technology

Academic Assessment Plan

Adopted by

The Surgical Technology faculty: October 1, 2016

Submitted to the Academic Assessment Committee
October 13, 2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement _____________________________________________________________ 3
Program Introduction __________________________________________________________ 3
Program Program Student Learning Outcomes ______________________________________ 4
Table 1: Assessment Measures __________________________________________________ 5
Table 2: Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Measures and Administration ______ 6
CAAHEP Accreditation Requirements ____________________________________________ 7
Assessment Implementation & Analysis for Program Improvement ____________________ 8
Examples of Assessment Tools __________________________________________________ 9
MISSION STATEMENT

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.

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

The UAA Surgical Technology Program is a new AAS program that will be applying for accreditation by the Commission for 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). CAAHEP accreditation is required in order for graduates of the program to be eligible to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination. The outcomes identified for the UAA Surgical Technology AAS program are based on Standards and Guidelines for an Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Technology.

These standards and guidelines have been specifically established for CAAHEP accreditation of surgical technology programs. The 2013 Standards have been utilized during the development of the UAA Surgical Technology Program and as the program prepares to submit a self-study and undergo a site visit for program CAAHEP accreditation. Program curriculum and assessments have been aligned with the 2013 CAAHEP-accreditation standards.

Assessment strategies have been chosen to align with identified program student learning outcomes. The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting has established specific outcomes and outcome thresholds which must be met by the program in order to maintain CAAHEP accreditation. Several assessment tools identified by the Council, including graduate and employer surveys, are required by CAAHEP for continuing program accreditation. The UAA Surgical Technology Program chooses to include these surveys as assessment tools since the surveys must be completed as a requirement of program accreditation.
PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students graduating with an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology will be able to:

- apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting,
- communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients and their families
- apply the principles of aseptic techniques in the perioperative setting
- organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment,
- demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment
- collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient
- demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team.
**TABLE 1: ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT MEASURES TO PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Outcomes Assessment</th>
<th>Practicum Evaluation</th>
<th>Skills Evaluation</th>
<th>Employer Survey</th>
<th>Graduate Survey</th>
<th>CST Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply knowledge and skills of biological sciences in the perioperative setting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate effectively with surgical team members, patients and their families</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply the principles of aseptic technique</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize routine instrumentation and supplies within the perioperative environment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacology and math calculation principles related to the surgical environment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate with members of the surgical team to deliver quality patient care with consideration of the unique psychological and social needs of each patient</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate skills and behaviors necessary to function as a member of a surgical team</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 = Measure is not used to measure the associated outcome.
1 = Measure is used to measure the associated outcome.
ASSESSMENT MEASURES

A description of the measures used in the assessment of the program student learning outcomes and their implementation are summarized in Table 2 below. The measures and their relationships to the program student learning outcomes are listed in Table 1, above.

### TABLE 2: ASSESSMENT MEASURES AND ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Frequency/Start Date</th>
<th>Collection Method</th>
<th>Administered by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OAE</td>
<td>Outcomes Assessment Exam – an exam approved by the Accreditation Review Council; required to be given to 100% of the students in a CAAHEP-accredited program</td>
<td>In last semester of program</td>
<td>Computerized exam</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum Evaluation</td>
<td>Evaluation completed at end of Practicum course by clinical instructors to assess student’s performance in the operating room</td>
<td>Throughout final semester with final report completed at end of final semester</td>
<td>Performance evaluation form</td>
<td>UAA Clinical Coordinator and Practicum Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills Evaluation</td>
<td>Evaluation completed for each required competency throughout the program</td>
<td>Throughout all SURG courses</td>
<td>Competency Skill Evaluation forms</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Survey</td>
<td>Employer Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>No sooner than 9 months after employment</td>
<td>Survey tool established by ARC/STSA</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Survey</td>
<td>Graduate Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>No sooner than 6 months after graduation</td>
<td>Survey tool established by ARC/STSA</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CST Exam</td>
<td>Certification exam for Surgical Technologists</td>
<td>At time of graduation</td>
<td>Computerized exam – scores provided to program</td>
<td>The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Outcomes Indicator</td>
<td>Outcomes Assessment Threshold (Minimum Requirement)</td>
<td>Type of Measure</td>
<td>When to Measure</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic Retention</td>
<td>70% of students that are admitted to the program taking core courses must graduate/complete</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>Measured upon graduation/program completion</td>
<td>Students who delay graduation beyond their original on-time cohort completion/anticipated graduation date, due to leaves of absence/repeating courses, are considered attrition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes Assessment Exam (OAE) Performance</td>
<td>All programs must administer an ARC/STSA-approved OAE to all program graduates</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Final semester of program; within a four (4) week period prior to or after graduation</td>
<td>This threshold does not refer to a class average; it refers to individual student/graduate scores. 100% of completing students must participate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CST Exam for all CAAHEP-accredited and SCT Exam-eligible programs</td>
<td>100% participation rate and 70% pass rate</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>ARC/STSA Reporting Year = August 1 – July 31</td>
<td>Programs seeking CAAHEP initial accreditation are required to administer the NBSTSA Comprehensive SCT Practice Exam (100% participation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job (Positive) Placement</td>
<td>80% of graduates seeking employment must be employed in a field related to surgical technology</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>At least once within 1 year after graduation</td>
<td>Graduates employed FT or PT in the ST field (or related field/on active military duty/continuing their education are considered positive placements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Satisfaction</td>
<td>50% return rate for surveys and 85% of the returned surveys rating the employee at a 3 or higher on a 5 point scale</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>No sooner that 9 months after the graduate’s employment</td>
<td>At least 50% of employers reported under Placement outcomes return the survey tool and 85% of surveys indicate a “satisfactory” rating – 24 of 28 areas rated 3 or higher on a 5 point Likert scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Satisfaction</td>
<td>50% return rate for surveys and 85% of the returned surveys rating the employee at a 3 or higher on a 5 point scale</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>No sooner than 6 months after graduation</td>
<td>At least 50% of graduates reported under Retention outcomes return the survey tool; 85% of surveys indicate a “satisfactory” rating 7 of 8 areas rated 3 or higher on the 5 point Likert scale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSessment Process

Annually, the program will assess its effectiveness in achieving its stated goals, learning domains, and program student learning outcomes. The annual timing of the assessment will align with the timeline established by the program’s accrediting agency, and an assessment report will be submitted to the UAA Office of Academic Affairs per UAA established reporting deadlines.

Data will be gathered by the program director, faculty and clinical coordinator as outlined in the above tables. The data will then be collated by the Program Director and shared with faculty for their review. Recommendations will be made by the Program Director, faculty and clinical coordinator. The recommendations will be discussed among the group, agreed upon and implemented in order that any required revision of the program will be made in a timely manner.

In addition to assessing program student learning outcomes, the program must also meet the outcomes assessment thresholds established by the Accreditation Review Council for Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants. These outcome measurements will be determined and reported on an annual report which is required by the Accreditation Review Council.

Development and Modification of Plan

Because this assessment plan is for a new program, it will be reviewed as the self-study is prepared for CAAHEP accreditation and as the first cohort of students matriculate through the program. The program director, faculty and clinical coordinator will be involved with the review and revision of the plan. Thereafter, the effectiveness of the plan will be evaluated on an annual basis by the program director, the faculty, and the clinical coordinator. Recommendations for revisions will be reviewed and discussed by the group and revisions made per recommendations for which there is consensus.
Section IV: Student and Graduate (Outcomes) Evaluation/Assessment

Standard IV.A.—Student Evaluation

1. Frequency and purpose: Evaluation of students must be conducted on a recurrent basis and with sufficient frequency to provide both the students and program faculty with valid and timely indications of the students' progress toward and achievement of the competencies and learning domains stated in the curriculum.

2. Documentation: Records of student evaluations must be maintained in sufficient detail to document learning progress and achievements.

[Please see the 2013 CAAHEP Standards at the back of this document for guidelines/additional information regarding compliance with this Standard.]

EXAMPLE—Standard IV.A.—

Example of a Laboratory Skills Evaluation Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>SURG102—Lab Skill 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The learner will assemble an unguarded surgical scalpel accurately, safely, and with proficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Successful</th>
<th>Needs Work</th>
<th>Not Successful</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Selects the required #15 blade</td>
<td>Correct blade, handle, and needle holder = 3 points</td>
<td>1 of 3 incorrect = 2 points</td>
<td>2 or 3 of 3 incorrect = 0 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Selects the corresponding #7 knife handle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Selects a 9&quot; Mayo Heager Needle Holder to use in loading the blade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Successful</th>
<th>Needs Work</th>
<th>Not Successful</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Places thumb and fourth finger into needle holder finger rings</td>
<td>Steps performed in order; timely, safe and accurate performance = 3 points</td>
<td>1-2 Steps need repeating; 1-2 minutes to complete all steps, safe performance = 2 points</td>
<td>Multiple steps need repeating —OR— greater than 2 minutes to complete steps —OR— unsafe performance = 0 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Orient the blade using the jaw of the needle holder with the cutting area facing left and the cutting tip pointing away</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Grasps the blade just above the fenestration and at a slight angle to the shaft of the needle holder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Orient the knife handle with the blade retaining section pointing away and the beveled area facing up; the hand holds the handle on the lower half of the handle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Blade is grasped firmly with the jaw of the needle holder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ The flared section of the blade fenestration is aligned with the grooves of the blade handle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ The blade is released; the needle holder is stored in its appropriate location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ The scalpel/handle is stored in &quot;sharps&quot; section of the back table, pointing away from the learner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Performs steps in order without repeating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Performs all steps in less than 60 seconds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Performs in less than 3 attempts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Faculty Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
ARC/STSA
GRADUATE SURVEY for Surgical Technology Education

Date ____________________________

Name of Surgical Technology program ____________________________

Name of graduate ____________________________

Date of graduation ____________________________

Place of employment ____________________________

Are you certified? □ Yes □ No

If yes, what is the date of your certification ____________________________

Are you continuing your education? □ Yes □ No

If yes, what institution are you attending ____________________________

What degree are you working toward? ____________________________

Please rate the following items according to this scale:

5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Somewhat Agree, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly Disagree

1. The didactic portion of the program adequately prepared me for my present position. 1 2 3 4 5
2. The clinical portion of the program adequately prepared me for my present position. 1 2 3 4 5
3. The program adequately prepared me for the certification exam. 1 2 3 4 5
4. Program officials were available for assistance. 1 2 3 4 5
5. Program officials were sensitive to student needs, and treated students equally and with respect. 1 2 3 4 5
6. Program officials were supportive of the students, and provided constructive evaluations. 1 2 3 4 5
7. Program officials were competent, knowledgeable, and well-prepared for instruction. Questions and independent thinking were encouraged. 1 2 3 4 5
8. Program policies and procedures were clearly defined and enforced. 1 2 3 4 5
9. What do you feel were the strengths of the program?


10. What do you feel were the weaknesses of the program?


11. If you could make changes in the program, what would you change?


12. What portions of the program would you keep, and why?


13. General Comments About Your Education


Signature of Graduate


~ Thank you! ~

SASA-ARC/STSA Graduate Survey - ST  2 of 2
ARC/ST SA EMPLOYER SATISFACTION SURVEY
CAAHEP-Accredited Surgical Technology Program

Surgical technology (ST) programs value the opinions of employers of our graduates. The information provided in this survey is critical to continuous quality improvement of the program. Employer survey return rate and Employer survey satisfaction rate are two of the program outcomes reported to the institution’s Program Advisory Committee and on the program’s ARC/STSA Annual Report. Thank you for completing and returning this important survey.

School Sponsoring ST Program

School City State

Graduate’s Name Graduation Date

Employer Dept.

Date of employment Length of Employment (months or years)

Please select one response from the KEY below and circle the corresponding number at the end of each question.

KEY: 0=Does Not Apply, 1=Not Satisfied, 2=Slightly Satisfied, 3=Satisfied, 4=Very Satisfied, 5=Extremely Satisfied

Knowledge (Cognitive Preparation) - How satisfied are you with this graduate’s entry-level knowledge of:
1. basic sciences (e.g., anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, pathophysiology, microbiology, pharmacology, and anesthesia)?

2. preoperative concepts (e.g., case preparation, scrubbing, gowning, gloving, and counting)?

3. intra-operative concepts (e.g., operative sequence, supplies, instrumentation, equipment, and specimen handling)?

4. postoperative concepts (e.g., case breakdown/room turnover, transfer/transport, decontamination, disinfection, and sterilization)?

Psychomotor Skills - How satisfied are you with this graduate’s entry-level skills:
5. ability to anticipate, manage a surgical procedure, and handle instrumentation, supplies, and equipment?

6. practice of asepsis, standard precautions, and sharps safety?

Professional Behaviors - How satisfied are you with this graduate’s entry-level behavior:
7. work ethic (e.g., attendance, punctuality, time management, and accountability)?

8. interpersonal skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, and conflict management?)

9. adaptive behaviors (e.g., flexibility, receptiveness to critique, and responsiveness to stressful situations)?

10. Overall, how satisfied are you with this graduate’s preparation for entry-level employment?
Please comment on areas above where you were less than satisfied and/or on how the program can improve the overall quality of its graduates (optional).

Date this survey was completed ____________________________

Name of person completing survey ____________________________

Job Title of person completing survey ____________________________

Signature of person completing survey ____________________________

Email address ____________________________ Primary phone number ____________________________

End of Survey

Thank you!