



ABHES BULLETIN

To: ABHES-Accredited Institutions and Programs
Recognized Accrediting Agencies
State Departments of Education
U.S. Department of Education
Interested Parties

From: India Y. Tips, Executive Director

Date: July 31, 2020

Subject: Final Revisions to the ABHES *Accreditation Manual* – Surgical Technology

At its July 2020 meeting, the Commission of the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) acted to adopt final revisions to the 18th Edition of the *Accreditation Manual*, effective immediately, July 31, 2020. The Commission considered the comments received to its [February 3, 2020, Call for Comment](#) and acted to adopt the final revisions related to Surgical Technology on pages 2-3 of this document. New language is underlined, and deleted language ~~struck~~.

The current edition of the *Accreditation Manual*, which includes these revisions, can be found at <https://abhes.org/resources/#accredManual>.

CHAPTER II – ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATIONS

SECTION A – Eligibility for Application

b) Programmatic Eligibility

(c) **Surgical Technology**

- Ceonsistency with the current *Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology*, produced by the Association of Surgical Technologists (www.ast.org). Note: Currently accredited institutional members must adhere to the requirements for programmatic eligibility when adding a surgical technology program, which includes submission of the *Application for Programmatic Accreditation*. At a minimum, all graduates must complete the surgical technology program with an associate degree.

CHAPTER VII – ST EVALUATION STANDARDS FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

SECTION A – Curriculum, Competencies, and External and/or Internal Clinical Experience

ST.A.3. *The program administers to each ~~cohort of students~~ an examination by a nationally recognized and accredited credentialing agency ~~the Certified Surgical Technologists (CST) examination,~~ after completion of curricula content and prior to graduation.*

~~The exam serves as the program's quality indicator by producing relevant, first time attempt score data which assess curricular quality and overall achievement in the program.~~ Programs must demonstrate 100 percent examination participation and a 70 percent pass rate.

The exam program is proctored consistent with the credentialing agency's requirements.

SECTION B – Program Supervision, Faculty, and Consultation

Subsection 1 – Supervision

ST.B.1. *The program supervisor is credentialed and experienced in the field.*

Supervisors of a surgical technology program:

- i. ~~h~~**H**old a credential in the surgical technology field from a nationally recognized and accredited credentialing agency. ~~(supervisors of a surgical technology program hired after July 1, 2010, hold the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential);~~
- ii. ~~p~~**P**ossess a minimum of three (3) years of operating room experience in the scrub role within the last five (5) years or three (3) years teaching in the field of surgical technology prior to employment. ~~;~~ **and,**
- iii. ~~e~~**E**vidence ~~of~~ continued education and training intended to maintain and enhance their professional knowledge of surgical technology instruction and administrative requirements as well as to promote necessary education, standards, and credentialing required in the surgical technology field (e.g., pursuit of advanced academic degrees and active participation in related state and national membership organizations).

Subsection 2 – Faculty and consultation

ST.B.2.a. *Faculty formal education/training and experience support the goals of the program.*

All faculty works under the direction of the program supervisor. Faculty teaching didactic and clinical core (found in the Core Curriculum) courses (i) hold a credential from a nationally recognized and accredited credentialing agency ~~the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential if hired after July 1, 2010,~~ and (ii) have within the last five (5) years a minimum of three (3) years of operating room experience or teaching in the field, or a combination of the two prior to hire date.