

# In-Demand Skills

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## Skills Recommended for Surgical Technology Students

### Obtain Your CRCST Certification

The CRCST Certification helps to ensure Sterile Processing (SP) professionals possess the essential knowledge and skills necessary for managing critical departmental duties safely, effectively and consistently. The program is designed to recognize technicians who have demonstrated the experience, knowledge and skills necessary to provide competent services as a Sterile Processing technician. CRCSTs are integral members of the healthcare team who are responsible for decontaminating, inspecting, assembling, disassembling, packaging, and sterilizing reusable surgical instruments or devices in a healthcare facility.

<https://myhspa.org/certification/>

### Operating Room Communication

Building the ability to clearly and confidently communicate with surgeons, nurses, and other surgical team members during procedures is essential in the operating room. This includes using proper medical terminology, practicing active listening, anticipating team needs, and speaking up promptly about safety concerns or sterile field issues. Strong operating room communication skills are highly valued by employers because they improve teamwork, enhance patient safety, and help procedures run smoothly and efficiently.

### Team Collaboration

Team collaboration within surgical technology can be demonstrated by working effectively with surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and other healthcare professionals to ensure safe and efficient patient care. It involves understanding each team member's role, communicating clearly during procedures, and supporting others by anticipating needs and maintaining a sterile environment. Strong collaboration skills help create a coordinated operating room team, and reduce errors.

### Time Management

Effectively organizing responsibilities before, during, and after surgical procedures is essential for keeping the operating room running smoothly. It is important to do these steps such as preparing supplies efficiently, prioritizing tasks under pressure, and adapting quickly to schedule changes or unexpected situations. Strong organizational and prioritization skills help reduce delays, support the surgical team, and ensure patients receive timely, safe care.

### Emotional Intelligence

Being aware of and managing your own emotions, as well as understanding the emotions of others, is crucial in the high-pressure environment of the operating room. This includes staying calm during unexpected situations, showing empathy toward patients and team members, and responding professionally to stress or conflict. Strong emotional intelligence helps build trust, improve teamwork, and create a safer, more supportive environment.

### Adaptability in High Stress Environments

Remaining flexible and composed when unexpected situations arise in the operating room is critical for surgical technology students. Examples of this are, quickly adjusting to changes in surgical procedures, equipment malfunctions, or patient needs while maintaining focus and safety. Strong adaptability allows the surgical team to work efficiently under pressure.