

# Western Technical College

## Health & Public Safety Division Technical Standards Criteria

It is the intent of Western Technical College to fully comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

In order to assist students to successfully complete our programs, Western Technical College has developed a set of objective technical standards criteria. Students will be asked to review the technical standards for the program of choice, and then sign a form stating whether or not they are able to meet the technical standard abilities, with or without accommodations, as stated in this document. **If a student enters a program with falsification of records related to their ability to meet these requirements, he/she may face disciplinary action.** All documents will be kept on file with the College.

For students with a disability, reasonable accommodations are available. Reasonable accommodations allow individuals with disabilities to gain equal access and have equal opportunities to participate in Western Technical College courses, services, activities, and use of the facilities. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of self and/or others, if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum/clinical site, if it lowers academic standards, or poses an undue administrative or financial burden. To be eligible for disability-related services/accommodations, students must have a documented disability. This documentation must be provided by a licensed professional, qualified in the appropriate specialty area.

In accordance with ADA and Section 504 requirements, accommodation requests require the approval of Western's Access and Language Services. All requests for special accommodations must be approved as soon as possible. In some programs, accommodations must be approved by an outside agency or clinical site. Delays in beginning a course/program may occur while this process is arranged. The prospective student must provide documented proof of the need for the special accommodation.

**Accommodations allowed, without disability documentation:** supportive back brace or other supportive brace that does not impede required movement or interfere with infection control policies, hearing aids, glasses, and/or contacts. Other student-suggested accommodations will require the approval of the Access and Language Services Manager.

If you are a person with a documented disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact Kris Follansbee, Manager of Access and Language Services at [accessservices@westerntc.edu](mailto:accessservices@westerntc.edu) or (608) 785-9875. It is recommended that you contact Kris at least three weeks prior to the start of the course so an accommodation plan can be made. However, programs with clinical components may take longer than three weeks for accommodations to be in place.

**The following is a list of Technical Standard the student must have in order to participate in the Surgical Technology Program at Western Technical College.**

Functional Ability (Technical Standard)  
Categories  
and  
Representative Activities / Attributes  
for the  
Surgical Technology Program

**\*See important information under environmental statement if you suspect you have a latex allergy or sensitivity.**

A change in your ability to perform any of the Technical Standards must be reported to Juan Jimenez, the Associate Dean of the Surgical Technology program at (608) 785-9275 or to your instructor immediately.

Gross Motor Skills:	Move within confined spaces Maintain balance in multiple positions Reach above shoulders (e.g., adjust overhead lights) Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlet) Reach out front
Fine Motor Skills:	Pick up objects with hands Grasp small objects with hands firm and slight (ex. Surgical instruments, sutures) Write with pen or pencil Key/type (e.g., use a computer) Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe) Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands) Squeeze with finger (e.g., eye dropper) Manual dexterity Finger dexterity Simultaneous use of hands, wrists, fingers Coordinate eye-hand and eye-hand foot (e.g., pumping soap dispenser and surgical scrub)
Physical Endurance:	Stand for long periods of time from 2-4 hours Maintain same position for long periods of time Sustained repetitive movements Function in a fast-paced work environment for hours
Physical Strength:	Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., carry instrument pans, position client, move equipment) Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., hold arm or leg) Lift 50 pounds (e.g., pick up a child, transfer client, bend to lift an infant or child) Carry equipment / supplies (e.g., lift instrument pans) Use upper body strength (e.g., retraction, physically restrain a client) Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguishers)
Mobility:	Ability to: Stand Walk Twist, turn

Bend, stoop, squat  
Sit  
Climb stairs  
Move quickly

Hearing: Ability to hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g., person to person conversation, request for instrument).  
Hear faint voices and body sounds (e.g., heartbeat)  
Ability to discriminate speech in presence of background noises  
Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., masks are work in the operating room)

Visual: See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on monitor screen, identification of small needles)  
See objects up to 20 feet away  
Use depth perception  
Use peripheral vision  
Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies)  
See in darkened room (e.g., during endoscopic procedures, eye surgery)

Tactile: Feel vibrations (e.g., palpate pulses)  
Detect temperature (e.g., solutions)  
Feel differences in surface characteristics  
Feel differences in sizes, shapes  
Detect environment temperature

Environment: Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, chemical / substances)

**NOTE: You may be unable to attend labs and clinical rotations if you are latex sensitive or have a latex allergy. We do not provide a latex free environment at school or in our clinical hospital sites at this time. You will be required to provide a doctor's written statement confirming it is safe to continue in the program if you are latex sensitive or have a latex allergy.**

Tolerate strong soaps  
Tolerate strong odors  
Exposure and tolerate unpleasant sights and sounds, electrical energy, solvents, grease, oils, slippery or uneven walking surfaces and excessive noises  
Tolerate working in confined spaces for extended periods of time  
Tolerate wearing protective equipment (e.g., mask, gown, gloves, glasses, laser, radiation)  
Tolerate working indoors  
Tolerate working in extreme temperatures

Reading: Read and understand written documents  
Read digital displays

Math: Ability to count, add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers  
Compute fractions and decimals  
Document numbers in records  
Tell and measure time  
Read measurement marks (e.g., rulers, scale)

Emotional Stability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish professional relationships</li> <li>Adapt to changing environment / stress</li> <li>Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)</li> <li>Focus attention on task</li> <li>Cope with own emotions</li> <li>Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently</li> <li>Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief, anger, stress)</li> <li>Accept constructive feedback</li> <li>Accept responsibility for own actions</li> </ul>
Analytical Thinking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer knowledge from one situation to another</li> <li>Process and interpret information from multiple sources (written or oral)</li> <li>Analyze and interpret abstract and concrete data</li> <li>Evaluate outcomes</li> <li>Problem solve</li> <li>Prioritize tasks (e.g., time management)</li> <li>Use long-term memory</li> <li>Use short-term memory</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify cause-effect relationships</li> <li>Plan / control activities (organizational skills)</li> <li>Sequence information</li> <li>Make decisions independently</li> <li>Adapt decisions based on new information</li> <li>Comprehend and follow instructions</li> <li>Follow a process from start to finish (e.g., 2 or more step instruction)</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport with individuals (e.g., surgeons, staff members) and groups</li> <li>Respect / value diversity in others</li> <li>Negotiate interpersonal conflict</li> <li>Demonstrate tolerance in working with others</li> <li>Function as part of a team</li> </ul>
Communication Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak English</li> <li>Write English</li> <li>Listen / comprehend spoken / written word</li> <li>Collaborate with others (e.g., health care workers, peers)</li> <li>Comprehend and exhibit non-verbal communication</li> </ul>

*This Technical Standards document was developed as part of the transition to an Associate-level degree program, and is shared across all schools in the Wisconsin Technical College System. The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) approved these functional abilities as part of that process. Any changes to this document will require review and approval by ARC/STSA.*

**Health & Public Safety Division  
Technical Standards Criteria  
Statement of Understanding**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. & 12101 *et seq.*) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. & 794) prohibits discrimination of persons because of his/her disability. In keeping with these laws, colleges of the Wisconsin Technical College System make every effort to ensure a quality education for students. The purpose of this document is to ensure that students acknowledge that they have been provided information on the Technical Standards required of a student in the chosen program.

**Please complete this form and return to Admissions.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I have read, understand, and can meet the *Technical Standards Criteria* specific to a student in the **Surgical Technology Program**..

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I am unable to meet the Technical Standards Criteria presented and am requesting accommodations at this time (*Please [Click Here](#) to complete the Accommodation Request Form*).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I understand that I must meet with Western's Access Services to arrange for any accommodations prior to class start.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID#, SS#, or DOB

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return to:  
Western Technical College  
Attn: Admission  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street North  
PO Box C-0908  
La Crosse, WI 54602  
(608) 785-9553  
Fax (608) 785-9148