



**Adopted October 2005
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Position Statement Teamwork

Teamwork is an essential part of the surgical environment. The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) recognizes the importance of a collaborative teamwork environment. The primary focus of all surgical team members is to provide a seamless, safe and efficient surgical experience with a positive patient outcome.

The surgical arena is a highly technical and fast-paced environment. In many cases, this technological environment has decreased the amount of time that the patient spends in the operating room. This time reduction has resulted in the need for increased proficiency, team collaboration, and the use of interpersonal skills to provide safe, quality outcomes for the surgical patient.

Team-building skills aid in the ability of a group to work together effectively. Team players need to learn and refine their skills in communication, conflict negotiation and resolution and consensual decision-making. The Association of Surgical Technologists promotes the development of these skills within the surgical environment, because they are necessary to achieving exceptional team and patient outcomes.