

Preparing for OR rotations:

A surgical Technology program contains three important phases. Phase one is introducing the student to the concepts they will need to be successful in the role of a surgical technologist. Phase two consist of the student taking the concepts learned in the class room and putting those skills to practical use in the lab. Phase three consists of taking the combined class room experience and lab training to the clinical site and performing at a high level. It is extremely important for the student to have the basic knowledge and the ability to demonstrate the skills prior to clinical rotation.

Equally important is to familiarize the students with the clinical facility. Arrange for the students to go and observe cases for a couple of hours beginning week one. This will demonstrate to the students why it is so important they understand concepts such as sterile technique. Arrange to get an empty OR room and have the students practice set-ups, gown&glove and more importantly, get use to the OR environment. This will also begin to familiarize the OR staff to the students. It seems to work better if you gradually introduce your students to the clinical site. However, before you allow the students to perform any tasks in the OR, make sure they first perform the task well in the lab.

Preparing for OR rotations goes back to phase one and two. Without the proper classroom preparation and lab skills the students will have a bad experience in the OR. This in turn will cause you, the instructor to have a bad experience in the OR. Remember to make the lab experience as close to the real thing as possible. Once the students have the basic skills down, begin putting them under pressure in the lab. Example as they are practicing their gown & gloving and passing be the difficult surgeon. You will not be doing them any favors if the lab experience is 100% joking around. Remember your own OR experience