



Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons

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2022-2023 OFFICERS

May 16, 2023

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Dear Ms. Kempa:

Thank you for reaching out regarding the current surgical technologist workforce shortage in the state of Michigan. As surgeons from the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the safety and quality of care in the operating room is our top concern.

Secretary

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The following statement was developed by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Perioperative Care and approved by the ACS Board of Regents at its June 2005 meeting. This statement was subsequently approved by the Association of Surgical Technologists, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses.

Treasurer

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American College of Surgeons Statement on Surgical Technology Education and Certification

Surgical technologists are individuals with specialized education who function as members of the surgical team in the role of scrub person. With additional education and training, some surgical technologists' function in the role of surgical first assistant.

Surgical technology programs are accredited by the Accreditation Review Committee for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting—a collaborative effort of the Association of Surgical Technologists and the American College of Surgeons, under the auspices of the Council on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Accredited programs provide both didactic education and supervised clinical experience based on a core curriculum for surgical technology.

Accredited programs may be offered in community and junior colleges, vocational and technical schools, the military, universities, and structured hospital programs in surgical technology. The accredited programs vary from nine to 15 months for a diploma or certificate to two years for an associate degree.

Graduates of accredited surgical technology programs are eligible for certification by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, an administratively independent body from the Association of Surgical Technologists consisting of representative certified surgical technologists, a surgeon, and the public.

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The American College of Surgeons strongly supports adequate education and training of all surgical technologists, supports the accreditation of all surgical technology educational programs, and supports examination for certification of all graduates of accredited surgical technology educational programs.

Our surgical patients deserve nothing less than surgical technologists that have graduated from CAAHEP-accredited educational programs. A CAAHEP-accredited surgical technology program ensures that students are provided an education that follows the nationally approved curriculum and standards. Critical competencies for surgical technology programs cannot be accomplished with an abbreviated education or on-the-job training. These greatly truncated formats are not sufficient to master critical lifesaving, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills that are essential in the operating room.

Specialized accreditation of programs in surgical technology began in 1974, implementing standards of compliance developed in collaboration by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) and we agree that now is not the time to move backwards. The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) was established for this purpose. ARC/STSA, ACS and AST cooperate to establish, maintain, and promote appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in surgical technology and surgical assisting. Educational programs recognized meet or exceed the Standards outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for Accredited Educational Programs in Surgical Technology and the Standards and Guidelines for Accredited Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting. These Standards are the minimum standards of quality used in accrediting programs that prepare individuals to enter the professions of surgical technology or surgical assisting.

I encourage Michigan State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists (MSA-AST) and community partners to reach out to the ARC/STSA. There are many innovative options to enhance partnerships between CAAHEP accredited surgical technology programs and their community health care providers.

Best regards,



David Kwon
President
Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons



Loay Kabbani
President-Elect
Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons



Kellie McFarlin, MD, FACS
Immediate Past President
Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons



Ron Kruzel
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