AST & NBSTSA Updates

Kaysha Stogsdill & Lia Byrd
AST Educators Conference
February, 2019
Tempe, AZ
• **Question:** Did 75% of your students’ become members of AST during the school year?

• **Answer:** Yes
AST Galaxy Program

• Recognizing Surgical Technology programs

• Students must be enrolled in accredited program. (Check with ARC/STSA for four-digit code)

• 75% of students join AST

• Galaxy program runs annually from January to January of the following year

• Application found on AST website by clicking Educators/ Galaxy Program

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Entered into the *Galaxy Program Drawing*

3 Galaxy winners will receive:

- Paid registration to attend AST’s Educators Conference
- Round trip airfare
- 3 nights hotel
AST Honors Your Program

Receive Galaxy certificate and honor cord

Special recognition at AST’s National Conference

Listed in *The Surgical Technologist*, June Edition

Instructors Newsletter

ASTSA Newsletter
Gold Student Exam Bundle

{AST Membership - Study Guide - National Certification Exam}

Benefits of the AST Gold Student Exam Bundle

• Keeps students organized while preparing for exam

  • Class choice of printed or online study guide

  • Login access to the AST website

• 12 month subscription of The Surgical Technologist
Student Application

Association of Surgical Technologists
6 West Dry Creek Circle • Suite 200 • Littleton, CO 80120-8031
Phone: 800.637.7433 • Fax: 303.694.9160 • www.ast.org

Student Information

Choose the appropriate option for membership plans or bundle:

- Student Membership: $20
- Gold Student Printed Exam Bundle: $20
- Gold Student Online Exam Bundle: $40
- AST Membership: N/A
- Exam Study Guide: $25
- Exam Application Fee: $25

Total: $262 Online: $247

Join AST Today!
Print and mail your application with payment to
AST • 6 West Dry Creek Circle • Suite 200 • Littleton, CO 80120-8031
Frequently asked questions and answers:

- What if a student is already a member of AST before purchasing gold bundle?
- What happens if a student drops?
- Can a student still sit for the exam, but purchase the gold bundle separately?
- How long is gold bundle processing and shipping?
Welcome!

About the NBSTSA
WBT Becomes OCE

• As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, our Board of Directors decided that the WBT department will be renamed **On-Campus Examination (OCE)**, in an effort to help distinguish between the pre-graduate and post-graduate departments. CBT has also been updated to **Testing Center Examination (TCE)**.

• We are still getting this language updated on the website and all applicable forms.
Today’s Agenda

• OCE – The Process
• New Passing Scores
• Examination Development and Content Information
• School Portals
• Studying Tools
On-Campus Examination (OCE)  
How to Become a Testing Center

• Complete the Examination Administrator Request Form and submit to PSI prior to scheduled testing. Submission of this form does not schedule the examination.

• This form is necessary to establish IT capability at your institution, as well as set up appropriate institutional proctors.

• Proctors cannot be surgical technology or allied health staff instructors (administrative assistants are fine.)

• Submit this form whenever you need to change proctors, otherwise it is only necessary when establishing your location as a testing center.
On-Campus Examination Policies and Procedures

• OCE is available to all NBSTSA recognized Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting programs across the United States.
• OCE is for currently enrolled students in the participating program.
• Candidate groups must test by OCE no more than 30 days prior to or 30 days post graduation.
• Complete graduating groups must participate; partial groups are not permitted.
• Partial candidate groups must utilize the PSI Testing Center Examination (TCE) network post-graduation.
On-Campus Examination (OCE)
Policies and Procedures

• All candidate examination applications, WBT request form, typed roster, and payment must be received by the NBSTSA office at least 45 days prior to the requested date.
• Inability to provide all necessary documentation may necessitate changing the originally requested test date.
• To remove a candidate, an email must be received by the NBSTSA at least three (3) business days prior to the examination with the student’s name, the examination date, and the reason why the student will not be testing. Acceptable reasons to remove a student are a family or medical emergency, withdrawal from the program, or a postponement of graduation.
Graduation Proof

• NBSTSA cannot release results until proper graduation proof is submitted.
• Transcripts (with grad date and degree awarded)
• Copy of Certificate/Diploma
• Notarized Letter from PD
  • Dated (on or after grad date)
  • On school letterhead
  • List names of graduates
  • Specific date of graduation
  • Signed
On-Campus Examination (OCE) Forms & Resources

On-Campus Guide
Provides policies and procedures for on-campus testing

Testing Schedule
For educators to use to keep track of deadlines

OCE Request Form
Submitted for each exam, along with a roster, to schedule the exam date

Credit Card Charge Request Form
Used when school is paying for the entire class with one credit card and did not purchase bundles from AST.

CST or CSFA Examination Application
Each student fills out his or her own application (these are in addition to any gold bundle applications that may have already been submitted.)
Pre-Grad Off-Campus Testing

- Pre-grad off-campus testing is available to all NBSTSA recognized surgical technology and surgical assisting programs across the United States that offer a distance learning program.
- School will submit a letter listing the students expected to graduate with their expected graduation date.
- Students must submit their individual exam applications with payment (normal processing time is 2-4 weeks).
- Authorization to Test (ATT) letters will be emailed to the school or mailed to the candidate, depending on the preference of the Program Director.
- Graduation verification must be received by the NBSTSA within 60 days of the examination date for results to be released.
Change in Passing Scores

• As of January 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019, the amount of CST and CSFA exam questions were reduced to 175 from 200, with 25 of those being test questions that count neither for or against the candidate.

• 150 scored questions, a passing score for CST is 109 (73\%) and for CSFA is 105 (70\%)
Preparation: Studying Tools

• Content Outline
• Study Evaluation
• Mobile App
• Practice Exams
PSI/AMP School Portals

• Enables educators to run their own reports of student examination results.
• Available through PSI website, www.goamp.com
• Need a login? Forget your old one? Email portalsupport@psionline.com to get it reset or have a new one generated.
• Report data available to educators on two types of reports:
  • Content results by school
  • School performance report
School Portals: Content Results by School

- Report can be drawn on a specific date range
- Individual student performance
- All major/minor content areas are reported
- Designates first time and repeater candidates
School Portals:
School Performance Report

- Report can be drawn for specific date range.
- All candidate summary (by major and minor content area categories)
- First time candidate summary
- Repeat candidate summary
- National mean summary