

Course Sequencing

The purpose of course sequencing is to present material in a logical and orderly succession. Lay the foundation layer first and then build on that foundation in layers that overlap.

When you are planning a new program or revamping an existing program, it is important to present courses in a sequential manner.

The following is an example of a one-year diploma program.

There may or may not be required prerequisite courses in order to enter the program. This requirement will be determined by the individual collegiate systems.

In some community colleges and universities, related course sequencing is handled by the individual departments, (English, Science or Math) and the surgical technology instructor can request specific days or times in order to work the courses around labs and clinical. In the examples listed, the individual departments schedule the related courses with input from the surgical technology program chair.

Semester I: *English I* (1st semester)

A&P I (1st semester) usually the anatomy part

SUR (1st course,) (1st semester) *an intro course*

This course provides a comprehensive study of the operative environment, professional roles, moral/legal/ethical responsibilities, and medical communication techniques used in surgical technology. Topics include historical development, medical terminology, physical environment and safety measures, interdepartmental/peer/patient relationships and professional behaviors. Upon completion students should be able to apply theoretical knowledge of course topics to the operative environment.

SUR (2nd course) (1st semester) *an application course*

This course provides theoretical knowledge for the application of essential operative skills during the operative phase. Topics include surgical asepsis, sterilization/disinfection and perioperative patient care. Upon completion students should be able to demonstrate the principles and practices of aseptic technique, sterile attire, basic case preparation, and other relevant skills. Any required General Education courses in addition to the ones listed above

Semester II: *English* (2nd part if necessary/required)

A&P (2nd part) usually the physiology part

SUR (2nd semester)(1st course) **Surgical Procedures I**

This course introduces surgical pharmacology, anesthesia, wound healing physiology and general, gastrointestinal, obstetrical/gynecological, Urological, ENT and plastic surgery specialties. Emphasis is placed on related surgical anatomy, pathology, and procedures, thereby enhancing

theoretical knowledge of patient care, instrumentation, supplies and equipment. Upon completion, students should be able to correlate, integrate, and apply theoretical knowledge of the course topics.

SUR (2nd semester)(2nd course) Clinical Practice I

This course provides clinical experience with a variety of perioperative assignments to build upon skills learned in Surgical Procedures I. Emphasis is placed on the scrub and circulation roles of the surgical technologist including aseptic technique and basic case preparation for selected surgical procedures.

Third science course (microbiology) if required (school/program specific) This could be presented in the first semester and A&P presented in the 2nd and 3rd semesters. Determined by the Science Department.

Semester III

Science (3rd part, if required)

SUR(3rd semester)(1st course) Surgical Procedures 2

This course is a continuation of surgical procedures I and completes the study of specialty specific surgical procedures.

SUR (3rd semester) (2nd course) Clinical Practice II

This course is a continuation of the clinical practice course that was begun in the previous semester. More advanced skills are applied and student should be at entry level at the end of the semester.

SUR (3rd semester)(3rd course)

This is a prep course for Certification testing, resume writing and interview skills. Mock testing, test preparation and job seeking skills are highlighted. Students learn resume writing and interview techniques and skills.

Example # 1:

1. Types of hospitals
2. Methods of funding
3. Hospital organization and management
4. Job description for the ST
5. Surgical Team members
 - a. sterile
 - b. nonsterile
 - c. auxiliary personnel
6. Related departments

Example # 2:

1. General and rectal surgery
 - a. hernia repair
 - b. breast surgery
 - c. exploratory laparotomy
 - d. esophageal procedures
 - e. gastric procedures
 - f. small bowel procedures
 - g. large bowel procedures
 - h. biliary tract procedures
 - i. pancreatic and splenic procedures
 - j. endoscopic procedures
 - k. others

Students will find it easier to process and retain information if it is presented in an orderly succession.