



**POLICIES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE CST AND CSFA FOR
THE FELLOW OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS**



Revised April 2017

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INTRODUCTION

The FELLOW OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (F.A.S.T.) designation is awarded to recognize those individuals who have upheld the highest professional, ethical and moral standards and traditions of the surgical technology profession, and whose professional activity has been devoted to the advancement of the profession towards improving the quality of surgical patient care.

AST awards F.A.S.T. only to those surgical technologists whose professional activities have been devoted to the practice of surgical technology, and who abide by the AST Code of Ethics and Professional Code of Conduct. Individuals awarded the F.A.S.T. will commit and adhere to these codes.

Attaining and maintaining certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST®) or Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA®) does not by itself entitle the surgical technologist to be awarded the F.A.S.T.

The only method or procedure available for awarding the F.A.S.T. is set forth in these Selection Criteria.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING AWARDED THE F.A.S.T

The following qualifications are required of anyone seeking consideration for the F.A.S.T.:

- Maintained the CST® or CSFA® credential for a minimum of 8 consecutive, uninterrupted years at the time the F.A.S.T. application is submitted.
- Maintained AST membership for a minimum of 8 consecutive, uninterrupted years at the time the F.A.S.T. application is submitted.
- Current member of AST.
- Currently certified by the NBSTSA.
- No professional disciplinary actions recorded by AST, NBSTSA or state/provincial licensing or registration authority.
- No recorded violations of the AST Professional Code of Conduct.
- Applicant must make full disclosure of any felony conviction in the application.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications must be received by May 1 of each year. Applications and criteria are available on the AST web site, www.ast.org. To access the electronic application the member must login to the AST web site.
- Applicants may be self-nominated or nominated by other individual(s). When nominated by others a completed application must be submitted by those nominating the individual. Nominations/applications are accepted from the following: surgeons, surgery department supervisor, and/or peers (CST® or CSFA®).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (LOR) must be included with the application. LORs will be accepted from the following individuals: member of the AST Board of Directors, member of a State Assembly Board of Directors, committee member of an AST national standing committee, a person holding the F.A.S.T. designation. Members of the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel may **not** provide a LOR.

NOTE: Please only submit two (2) letters of recommendation. If more than two LORs are received, the application will be returned to the applicant who will be responsible for choosing the two (2) LORs to resubmit with the application.

- Submit a current copy of your curriculum vitae or resume.
- If the candidate has earned an Associate degree or higher (AA, AAS, BA, BS, MA, MS, Ph.D.) please submit a copy of each diploma. Do not include transcripts or information on a degree that is in the process of being completed. An Associate degree (or higher) is **not** required to be eligible to apply for the FAST.
- Submit a copy of documentation verifying professional credentials such as the CRCST (Certified Registered Central Service Technician), R.T. (ARRT) (Registered Technician – American Registry of Radiologic Technologists®), etc. **Do not include a copy of your NBSTSA CST or CSFA certificate.**
- No action will be taken until an application is complete.

AWARD CRITERIA

The F.A.S.T. Selection Panel will consider the following in determining whether or not to award the F.A.S.T.

- Participation in local, regional, state, and/or national activities that are related to AST.
- Demonstrated influence on surgical technology through national professional roles (lecturer, writer/author/, spokesperson such as at the state legislative level) in support of AST and/or the CST or CSFA credentials.

- Participation in community, regional, or national volunteer activities that are not necessarily related to the surgical technology profession.
- Demonstrates outstanding knowledge and expertise in the practice, education, research or management areas of the surgical technology profession as related to AST and/or in support of the CST or CSFA credentials.
- Recognized by peers as an outstanding leader in the profession of surgical technology.
- Recognized by peers as being of the highest professional and ethical character.

EVALUATION AND AWARD OF THE F.A.S.T.

The evaluation of an applicant is based on the information that is submitted as related to the individual's stated qualifications and achievements. The F.A.S.T. Selection Panel is responsible for reviewing the applications and awarding the F.A.S.T. Any additions, deletions, and/or revisions to the selection criteria and application process, qualifications of candidates, award criteria and selection process of candidates may only be considered and approved by the AST Board of Directors.

- **Awarded the F.A.S.T.**
 - Those individuals awarded the F.A.S.T. will be recognized at the Opening Ceremony of the AST Annual National Conference ("Conference") where they will receive the F.A.S.T. certificate and pin. Those persons selected who are not in attendance will receive the certificate and pin after the Conference.
- **Not Selected**
 - If an applicant is not selected to receive the F.A.S.T., the applicant's application will remain active and on file for two years from the submission date. As the applicant submits documentation to AST showing proof of meeting additional criteria and/or updating current information this information will be added to the applicant's file and reviewed prior to the next Conference.
The applicant must maintain AST membership and certification on a continuous basis in order to meet the qualifications for being awarded the F.A.S.T. designation.

NOTE: Do not submit a new application; only submit additional documentation or updates that will be added to the existing application. New applications will be returned and the applicant requested to submit the additional documentation to be added to the existing application.

Please use the electronic form *Updates to Current F.A.S.T. Application* to submit additional information or updates. To access the form the member must first login to the AST web site.

- At the end of the two year period, if the applicant has not been selected to receive the F.A.S.T. award, his/her file will be closed. The individual can reapply by submitting a new application.

All information submitted by an applicant shall be kept confidential by AST and the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel. The identity of the persons selected for the F.A.S.T. shall also be kept in strict confidence by the Selection Panel until the announcement is made at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference.

EMERITUS STATUS FOR RETIRED CST AND CSFA

Individuals who are retired from the practice of surgical technology or surgical first assisting can be awarded Emeritus F.A.S.T. status. However, the individual must provide evidence of meeting the above stated qualifications and criteria including submitting two (2) letters of recommendation.

At the discretion of the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel, a deceased individual can be considered for being awarded the Emeritus F.A.S.T status.

CRITERIA FOR MAINTAINING THE F.A.S.T.

In order to maintain the F.A.S.T. designation, the individual must maintain:

- Membership in AST.
- CST® or CSFA® credential.
- CST® or CSFA® certification by completing all required continuing education. Renewal of the CST® or CSFA® credential by taking the NBSTSA national certification examination is **not** acceptable.
- No recorded professional disciplinary actions by AST or NBSTSA.

F.A.S.T SELECTION PANEL

The F.A.S.T. Selection Panel is responsible for the review of applications and deciding who should be awarded the F.A.S.T. The F.A.S.T. Selection Panel does not have the authority to take any other actions.

The F.A.S.T. Selection Panel shall be the AST Executive Officers of the Board of Directors, one AST Former President who has the F.A.S.T. designation who is appointed by the AST President on an annual basis, ARC/STSA President, and NBSTSA President.

The individuals who serve as members on the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel shall be made public. However, the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel members may not discuss the specifics as related to completing the application process with a potential or actual applicant, including providing any suggestions, hints or tips that could be perceived as providing the candidate any advantage.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

- Certificate of Recognition
- F.A.S.T. Pin
- Announcement at the Opening Ceremony of the AST Annual National Conference
- Announcement in the AST monthly journal *The Surgical Technologist* and on the AST web site.
- Press releases at the request of the individual.
- Recipient is allowed to place the acronym F.A.S.T. after his or her name. The credential is to be placed after the CST® or CSFA® credential and academic credentials, i.e. John Smith, CST, F.A.S.T.; Mary Smith, CST, BS, F.A.S.T.

OATH OF AST FELLOW

I, (state name), pledge myself to continue practicing surgical technology with the utmost honesty, maintain strict application of aseptic principle, establish myself as an example for peers, respect the knowledge and skills of my peers, and above all else, act for the safety and welfare of the surgical patient in accordance with the AST motto “Aeger Primo – The Patient First”. This I solemnly swear as a Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists.