



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



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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. to those CSTs and CSFAs 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 policies.

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

- Current active membership status of AST.
- Currently certified by the NBSTSA.
- No recorded violations of the AST Professional Code of Conduct.
- Applicant must make full disclosure of any felony conviction(s) in the application.
- No professional disciplinary actions recorded by AST, NBSTSA, state or provincial licensing or registration authority.
- Maintained AST active membership status for a minimum of 6 consecutive, uninterrupted years at the time the F.A.S.T. application is submitted.
- Maintained the CST® or CSFA® credential for a minimum of 6 consecutive, uninterrupted years at the time the F.A.S.T. application is submitted.
- Participation in activities in support of AST and the profession through state and national professional roles including but not limited to lecturer; researcher or author; spokesperson at the state legislative level or participation in mock surgery demonstrations for legislators; delegate to AST national conference; participation on state assembly and national committees and boards; and regular attendance to state assembly meetings and AST national conference. Additionally, participation in volunteer community activities that support the surgical technology profession and education, such as career fairs and community awareness projects.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications must be received by April 15 of each year. Applications and criteria are available on the AST web site, [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org). To access the electronic application the member must login to the AST web site.
- Two (2) **CURRENT** letters of recommendation (LOR) must be included with the application

**NOTE:** Current is defined as: Letters of Recommendation are considered “current” for two consecutive application cycles and LORs must be submitted with each new application.

**NOTE: Two (2) letters of recommendation must be submitted.**

- Acceptable sources of letters of recommendation:
  - Member of the AST Board of Directors
  - Member of a State Assembly Board of Directors
  - Member of a national AST Standing Committee
  - Former AST President who holds the FAST designation
  - Member of AST who holds the FAST designation
- Letters of recommendation will NOT be accepted from:
  - Current member of the F.A.S.T. Selection Panel
  - Employer or former instructor who does not hold the F.A.S.T. designation
  - Staff member of AST, ASA, NBSTSA, or ARC/STSA
  - Other healthcare professional who does not hold the F.A.S.T. designation
- Submit a copy of your **CURRENT** curriculum vitae or resume.
- No action will be taken until an application is complete.

## 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, 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 Surgical Technology 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**

**NOTE: A NEW APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH YEAR.**

- If an applicant is not selected to receive the F.A.S.T., the applicant will need to submit a NEW application complete with updates by April 15 to be considered for the F.A.S.T. award.
- The applicant must maintain AST active membership status and certification on a continuous basis to meet the qualifications for being awarded the F.A.S.T. designation.

**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.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE F.A.S.T.**

- Active membership status 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 reviewing 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**

- F.A.S.T. Pin
- Certificate of Recognition
- Press releases at the request of the individual.
- 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.
- Recipient is allowed to place the acronym F.A.S.T. after his or her name. The acronym is to be placed after the CST® or CSFA® credential and academic credentials, for example John Smith, CST, F.A.S.T. or 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.*