SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
OCCUPATIONAL RISKS

Students enrolled in the Surgical Technology program should be aware that participation in both laboratory and clinical education involves exposure to occupational risks inherent to the healthcare environment. These risks are comparable to those encountered by practicing surgical technologists and other perioperative personnel.

Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Students may be exposed to blood and body fluids that could contain infectious agents, including but not limited to:

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

Exposure may occur through:

- Needle sticks or sharps injuries
- Cuts from contaminated instruments
- Contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes

Students are required to adhere to standard precautions, utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and follow institutional infection control policies.

Exposure to Infectious Diseases

Clinical environments may involve exposure to communicable diseases, including respiratory, airborne, and contact-transmitted illnesses. Students are expected to comply with all isolation protocols and vaccination requirements as mandated by clinical affiliates and public health guidelines.

Physical Hazards

Participation in surgical procedures may involve:

- Prolonged standing
- Lifting, pushing, or transferring patients and equipment
- Exposure to radiation (e.g., fluoroscopy)
- Exposure to surgical smoke and chemical agents

Students must follow safety protocols, including proper body mechanics and use of protective equipment such as lead aprons when indicated.

Chemical Hazards

Students may encounter hazardous substances, including:

- Sterilizing agents (e.g., ethylene oxide)
- Disinfectants
- Medications and anesthetic gases

Appropriate handling procedures and safety data guidelines must be followed at all times.

Psychological and Emotional Stress

The surgical environment can be high-stress and fast-paced. Students may experience emotional strain related to:

- Patient outcomes
- Exposure to trauma or critical situations
- Demanding clinical expectations

Support resources are available through the institution for students experiencing stress or emotional challenges.

Sharps Safety and Injury Prevention

Strict adherence to sharps safety protocols is required to minimize the risk of injury. Any exposure incident must be reported immediately according to program and clinical site policy.

Compliance Requirements

To participate in clinical education, students must:

- Maintain current immunizations and health screenings
- Complete required safety trainings
- Demonstrate competency in infection control and sterile technique

Failure to comply with safety policies may result in removal from the clinical setting.

Division of Health Sciences Technical Standards Form

It is necessary for all Division of Health Sciences students to review and sign the following.

Please circle your program from the list below, then sign and return as directed.

ADN	Associate Degree Nursing	PB	Phlebotomy
CT	Computed Tomography	PM	Paramedicine
CY	Central Processing Technology	PN	Practical Nursing
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician	RT	Radiologic Technology
NA	Nursing Assistant	ST	Surgical Technology

TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS		ADN	PN	PB	PM/ EMT	NA	RT/CT	ST/ CY
MUSCULAR And SKELETAL	Work at areas located at various positions and elevation levels for durations of at least 30 minutes at a time alternating with the need to make frequent changes in body positions	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Maintain a standing body position for a minimum of two hours, while performing work related functions	X	X	X		X		X
	Transfer and position movement dependent patients from / to various positions and surfaces, such transfer / positioning frequently requiring a minimum of a 50 lb. weight bearing load	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Move / push / pull / reach equipment and accessories of various weights and sizes from a variety of heights to a variety of heights	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Perform CPR on adults, infants, and toddlers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Detect and distinguish between variations in human pulse, muscle spasm & contractions, and / or bony landmarks	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Safely guide patient in ambulation on level as well as inclined surfaces and stairs, often while the patient is using a variety of assistive devices. In either case, guard patient against falls or other injury	X	X	X		X	X	

	Apply gradated manual resistance to patient's individual muscular actions in order to determine patient's strength or to apply exercise techniques for stretching or strengthening	X	X	X		X		
	Quickly move from one site to all other areas of the health care facility	X	X	X	X	X	X	
AUDITORY	Detect and appropriately respond to verbally generated directions and acoustically generated monitor signals, call bells, and vital sign instrumentation output	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
VISUAL	Detect and discriminate between various human gestures and non-verbal responses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Detect and discriminate between large and small gradations in readings on dials, graphs, and displays, such detection made at various distances from the source.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Read printed and computer screen manuscript text	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Discern a patient's physical status at distances in excess of 10 feet and in subdued lighting	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Detect and discriminate between the range of image brightness values present on radiographic and computer screen images						X	
MANUAL DEXTERITY & FINE MOTOR SKILLS	Manipulate/adjust various types of switches, levers, dials, control, and/or hand-held equipment and/or in various combinations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Hold and use a writing instrument for recording patient history or pertinent information	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Apply gown, gloves, and mask for Universal Precautions when needed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
VERBAL	Articulate clearly to a patient in conversational English regarding therapeutic goals and procedures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
OLFACTORY	Detect changes in environmental odor and (temperature)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Function within environments which may be stressful due to fast pace, need for accuracy, and distracting sights and sounds	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ENVIRONMENTAL	Recognize that the academic/clinical environment includes exposure to disease, toxic substances, bodily fluids, and/or radiation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with those of the same or different cultures with respect, politeness, and discretion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Maintain cleanliness of personal grooming consistent with close personal contact	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Function without causing harm to self or others if under the influence of prescription or over the counter medications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Technical Performance Standards Informed Consent

1. I have received, read and understand the meaning of MassBay Community College's Health Professions Technical Performance Standards.

2. I understand that the Standards indicated, as applicable to my intended program of study, relate to the full array of essential performance competencies inherent to my chosen program of study.

3. I also understand that in order to successfully graduate from the program of my choice, I must be able to satisfactorily perform the tasks listed in the standards.

4. It is my responsibility to submit a request to the College's Disability Resources Office should I wish to receive a determination of reasonable accommodation in performing any of the stated standards.

5. Lastly, I understand that there may be instances where a reasonable accommodation for a method of satisfying the required performance tasks may not be possible.

Student Name (print):_____ID#:_____

Student Signature:_____Date:_____