

CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND OPTIONS

Many surgical technologists find satisfaction in their career and do not choose to switch careers or utilize their skills for another health career. But if you have a different goal, here are some common options for the graduates of Parkland's Surgical Technology Program.

Surgical/First Assistants: Surgical Assistants assist physicians in surgery and may perform specific significant surgical tasks under "professional supervision". (Significant surgical tasks include, but are not limited to: opening and closing surgical sites, exposure of the surgical site, harvesting grafts, dissecting tissue, removing tissue, implanting devices, altering tissues).

Surgical Assistants may, under "professional supervision", perform specific significant tasks which include, but are not limited to, applying and removing splints/casts, placing Foley catheters, IV's, and arterial lines, administering local anesthesia, and other such procedures as requested and necessary.

<http://www.surgicalassistant.org/index.php/surgical-assisting>

A certification in surgical technology is a requirement of a surgical assisting program. During the assisting program, the student will complete course work and clinical hours in order to be eligible to take the first assistant exam.

Physician Assistants (PA)

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on a team under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. They are formally educated to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment.

A bachelor degree from an accredited institution plus 1,000 total hours of hands-on patient care experience and/or community service in a health care setting (surgical technologist in surgery) in order to be considered for PA school. Preference is given to applicants having experience that requires a period of training and results in direct (hands-on) patient care.

Earning potential rises significantly for a PA with salary average listed at \$93,000 per year or approximately \$45 per hour (bls.gov).

Nursing

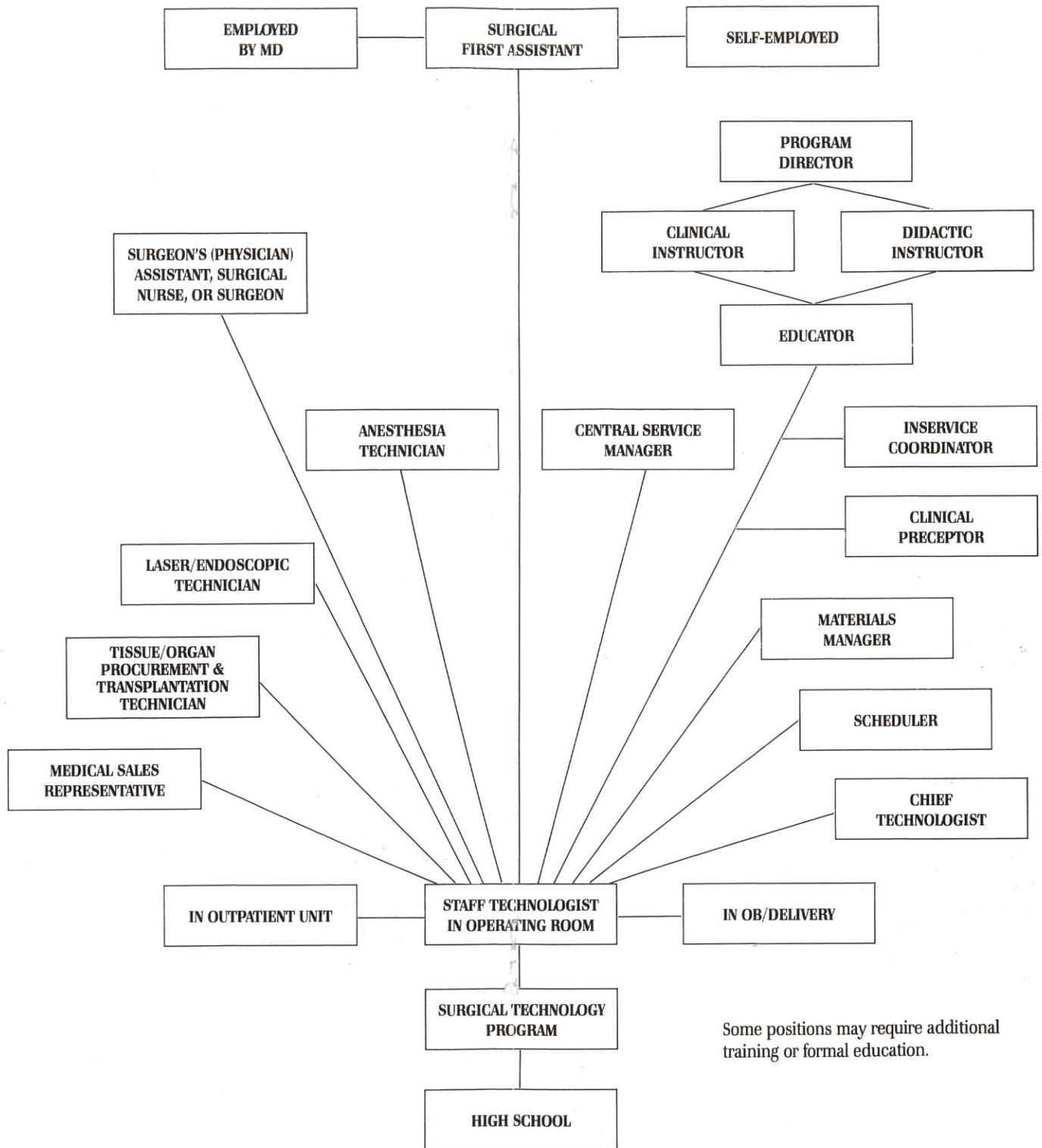
Completing a nursing degree with surgical technologist experience will be an excellent match for being an operating room nurse. While an operating room nurse has a much different role in surgery than a surgical technologist, there is a shortage of operating room nurses and have both credentials will increase your earning potential as well as make you very marketable.

There have been about six surgical technologists that completed their nursing degree and completed anesthesia school to be Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) which is at the highest end of earnings in the operating room. The credential of a surgical technologist is not a requirement for a CRNA, the experience is very valuable.

Medical Sales

Many of the program graduates have secured employment as medical sales representatives without further education. Medical sales seeks employees with medical and surgical backgrounds.

Surgical Technology Career Opportunities



Some positions may require additional training or formal education.