

Occupational Profile
Surgical Technologists & Technicians
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32928

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
70	100	100	160
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
30	42.9	60	60
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
No	5:0	No	1:1
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
*	*	\$12.72	\$12.39

Job Description:

Surgical Technologists also called surgical or operating room technicians, assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Before an operation, surgical technologists help set up the operating room with surgical instruments and equipment, sterile linens, and sterile solutions. They assemble, adjust, and check non-sterile equipment to ensure it is working properly. Technologists also prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical “drapes.”

Average Education Required

Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate’s degree. Some may require a bachelor’s degree.

Related Occupations

Other health occupations requiring approximately 1 year of training after high school include [licensed vocational nurses](#), [certified respiratory therapists](#), [medical laboratory assistants](#), [medical assistants](#), [dental assistants](#), optometric assistants, and [physical therapy aides](#).

Skills Required

- Information Organization – Finding ways to structure or classify multiple pieces of information
- Active Listening – Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
- Coordination – Adjusting actions in relation to others’ actions
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Mathematics – Using mathematics to solve problems
- Science – Using scientific methods to solve problems
- Active Learning – Working with new material or information to grasp its implications
- Information Gathering – Knowing how to find information and identifying essential information

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8060	Hospitals	85.4%
8010	Offices & Clinics Of Medical Doctors	13.1%

* Data not available