GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Surgical First Assistant Program

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Gulf Coast State College **Surgical First Assistant** Program! We are located in beautiful Panama City, FL, just minutes to the emerald green waters and white sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico.

The surgical services faculty and staff are very proud of the exceptional program and state-of-the-art Surgical Services Lab, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have as you begin your new career as a Surgical First Assistant. We are proud to offer the dual-track ST/SFA program for students with no prior experience in the surgical services profession.

If you have not already applied for admission to Gulf Coast State College, you should do this **first** by contacting Enrollment Services at 850.872.3892 or by visiting https://connect.gulfcoast.edu/portal/application_portal. This will not only start the college admissions process but will also permit you access to a variety of services available at the college. We also invite you to visit our program website at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-divisions/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html to better familiarize yourself with all aspects of our educational programs.

We are grateful you are considering Gulf Coast State College for your educational needs. If you have any questions or need to schedule an advising appointment, please contact:

- Brittany Page, Program Coordinator, (850) 873-3551
- Connie Pimentel, Academic Programs Specialist, (850) 913-3311
- Rebecca Acton, Senior Administrative Assistant, (850) 873-3589

Sincerely,

Brittany Page

Brittany Page, BAS, CST, CSFA
Program Coordinator, Surgical Services
Gulf Coast State College
Health Sciences Room 326
5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401-1058
Office: 850.873.3551
Email: bpage2@gulfcoast.edu

Rev. 12.4.2024

<u>**Surgical First Assistant Program**</u>

Thank you for your interest in the Surgical First Assistant Program at Gulf Coast State College. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment for surgical technologists and surgical assistants is growing faster than the national average for all occupations.

Gulf Coast State College offers:

<u>**Dual track ST/SFA program**</u>

- o Designed for the **non-experienced student**
- o Associate of Science Degree program
- o Enrollment

  - **August; application deadline by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on June 1ˢᵗ**

- o Course delivery:

  - ▪ Traditional classroom, laboratory, and supervised clinical settings

- o Upon successful program completion, students are eligible to take two separate certification examinations to become a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) and a Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Please review the information contained within this application packet to learn about student responsibilities and technical standards required for the occupation as well as the job classification of the surgical assistant. Additional information regarding this exciting and rewarding career can be found at *__www.surgicalassistant.org__*, the official website of the Association of Surgical Assistants.

<u>**Field Description**</u>

As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the Surgical First Assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. In addition to intraoperative duties, the Surgical First Assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate proper patient care. The Surgical First Assistant gives assistance to the surgeon during the operation and does so under the direction and supervision of that surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations.

In general, Surgical First Assistants have the following responsibilities:

- Determine specific equipment needed per procedure
- Review surgical permit to confirm procedure and special needs
- Select and placement of X-rays for reference
- Assist in moving and positioning of patient
- Insert and remove Foley urinary bladder catheter
- Place pneumatic tourniquet
- Confirm procedure with the surgeon
- Drape patient within the surgeon's guidelines
- Provide retraction of tissue and organs for optimal visualization with regard to tissue type and appropriate retraction instrument and/or technique
- Assist in maintaining hemostasis by direct pressure, use and application of an appropriate surgical instrument for the task, placement of ties, placement of suture ligatures, application of chemical hemostatic agents, or other measures as directed by the surgeon
- Use electrocautery mono and bipolar
- Clamp, ligate, and cut tissue per surgeon's directive

- Harvest saphenous vein, including skin incision per surgeon's directive
- Dissect common femoral artery and bifurcate per surgeon's directive
- Maintain integrity of sterile field
- Close all wound layers (facia, subcutaneous and skin) per surgeon's directive
- Insert drainage tubes per surgeon's directive
- Select and apply wound dressings
- Assist with resuscitation of patient during cardiac arrest or other life-threatening events in the operating room
- Perform any other duties or procedures incident to the surgical procedure deemed necessary and as directed by the surgeon

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Surgical First Assistant Program take the first step toward becoming an integral part of the surgical team. Hospitals, outpatient surgery clinics, private practice, and other surgical centers are extremely interested in hiring skilled individuals to assist in surgical procedures to promote optimal patient outcomes. Many areas of surgery rely on quality assistance. Surgical First Assistants learn skills for a variety of surgery specialties:

- Cardiovascular surgery
- General surgery
- Genitourinary surgery
- Head and neck surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic surgery
- Plastic surgery
- Robotic surgery
- Spinal surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Trauma surgery
- Vascular surgery

Advanced surgical first assistants gain respect of peers, become members of various professional organizations and create opportunities within the workforce.

Earnings Potential

Based on salary information gathered in May 2023 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall median average salary for a Surgical First Assistant in Florida is $72,250.

Professional Organizations

- Association of Surgical Assistants: https://www.surgicalassistant.org/
- National Surgical Assistant Association: ***https://www.nsaa.net***

Gulf Coast State College Consumer Information Notification

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 is a federal law which authorizes student aid programs. Reauthorizations of this act prescribe disclosure requirements for institutions wishing to participate in the federal student aid program. As a prospective student or enrolled student of GCSC you have a right to the following consumer and safety information. Paper copies of this information will be provided upon request to the Financial Aid Office.   Please call (850) 872-3845 or visit the Financial Aid Office in person if you have any questions.

- General disclosures, including GCSC's report on athletic program participation rates and financial support data, is found at: ***http://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid/consumer-information.html***

- Info on financial aid available to students is found at: ***http://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid***

- GCSC's annual Security Report is found at: ***http://www.gulfcoast.edu/campus-life/campus-safety/clery-act.html***

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is found ***http://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/ferpa.html***

Program-specific GCSC Gainful Employment (GE) webpage:

- Surgical First Assistant Certificate GE Information, click on the specific program Surgical First Assistant: **https://www.gulfcoast.edu/ge/sfa**

Professional Licensure

If applicants or students are earning an online degree while residing outside of the state of Florida, Gulf Coast State College will provide them with current contact information for any applicable licensing boards and will help them determine whether the program meets requirements for licensure in the state where they are located.

Gulf Coast State College Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant Programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This Disclosure is strictly limited to GCSC's determination of whether the Program if successfully completed, would be sufficient to meet the educational licensure requirements in a State, as defined as 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. GCSC cannot provide verification of an individual's ability to meet licensure requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

This Disclosure does not provide any guarantee that any particular State licensure entity will approve or deny your application. Furthermore, this Disclosure does not account for changes in state law or regulation that may affect your application for licensure and occur after this disclosure has been made. Enrolled students and prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact their State's licensure entity to review all licensure or certification requirements imposed by their State(s) of choice.

In accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 668.43, GCSC has determined the Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant programs meet the educational licensure requirements for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US protectorates, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2.

It is strongly encouraged that students, applicants, and prospective students determine any additional requirements for licensure in the State in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding State licensure can be found at:

https://www.ast.org/Public_Policy/Legislative_Overview/

https://assa.memberclicks.net/surgical-assistant-legislative-efforts

https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/online/professional-licensure-disclosure.html

Accreditations

Gulf Coast State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), 1866 Southern Lane; Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; Phone: 1-404-679-4500; Fax: 1-404-679-4558.   Website: www.sacscoc.org; http://sacscoc.org/membershipInfo.asp

The Surgical Technology and Surgical First Assistant programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 9353 – 113th ST. N, #7709 Seminole, FL 33775; Phone: 727-210-2350; website: www.caahep.org

Gulf Coast State College Assessment Exam Pass Rates by CAAHEP-ARC/STSA Standards

All programs are required to publish the approved Outcomes Assessment Exam (OAE) pass-rate from the program's most recently submitted Annual Report. Students take the National Board of Surgical Technologist and Surgical First Assistant Examination to become dually certified as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) and Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) (state specific) which are nationally recognized accredited certifications.

Surgical First Assistant School Year	CAAHEP Annual Report Year	Certification Pass Rate	NBSTSA National Average
8/1/2021-7/31/2022	2023	100%	81.0%
8/1/2020-7/31/2021	2022	85%	80.9%
8/1/2019-7/31/2020	2021	85%	78.2%
8/1/2018- 7/31/2019	2020	*Statistics not accurate due to issue with testing per NBSTSA	55.2%
Surgical Technology School Year	CAAHEP Annual Report Year	Certification Pass Rate	NBSTSA National Average
8/1/2021- 7/31/2022	2023	92%	71.6%
8/1/2020- 7/31/2021	2022	100%	70.6%
8/1/2019- 7/31/2020	2021	82%	73.7%
8/1/2018- 7/31/2019	2020	90%	64.4%

Criminal Background Checks

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students that are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at https://www.floridahealth.gov/ for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Student applicants DO NOT complete background checks until provisionally accepted into the Surgical First Assistant Program. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be given to you with your conditional acceptance email.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html

456.0635   Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.-

(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare professional is prohibited.

(2)   Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1.   For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2.   For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3.   For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c)   Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d)   Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or

(e)   Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the program coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Re-Admission Guidelines:

1. A student who withdraws from or earns a grade lower than a "C" in any HSC or STS course will not be permitted to continue in the Surgical First Assistant Program. A student who does not meet the Core Performance Standards of the program will not be permitted to continue in the program. Opportunities to re-apply may be available upon consultation with the Program Coordinator.

2. Applicants who wish to apply for readmission should do so prior to the posted application deadline for the next starting cohort.

3. Readmission to the Surgical First Assistant Program will be dependent upon available resources.

4. In order to be considered for readmission by the Admissions Committee, the applicant must meet current guidelines for admission to the College and the Surgical First Assistant Program.

5. Readmission may be contingent upon the candidate's agreeing to the current academic standards and curriculum. **Students may not be re-admitted to the last semester they attended. Failed courses or incomplete courses must be completed again in their entirety.**

6. A student who applies for readmission to the Surgical First Assistant Program may be asked to provide significant evidence, which suggests the potential for future success in the program. This evidence may address such things as unusual circumstances, designated academic advising plan, remedial study, and/or additional preparation.

7. Students applying for re-admission will be required to submit new physical and health screenings, supporting documents, and obtain new background check/drug screening. Students must also obtain & maintain compliance in PreCheck/SentryMD.

Surgical Services Transfer Policy:

Applicants who wish to transfer from another Surgical Assisting Program to a GCSC Surgical First Assistant Program must:

- meet all current admission requirements,
- apply by the published application deadline,
- provide evidence of successful completion of previous core Surgical First Assistant courses from a CAAHEP-accredited program, and provide official transcripts to GCSC,
- provide a letter from the Program Director stating that the student is in good academic and clinical standing and is eligible to return to the Surgical First Assistant program they wish to transfer from.

Acceptance of any transfer student will be dependent upon available resources. Transferability of GCSC Surgical First Assistant courses to another institution will be dependent upon the acceptance of the receiving institution.

*It is the Applicant's responsibility to make sure their application folder is complete prior to the application deadline.

_____ **Step 1. New students should apply for General Admission to GCSC – Choose Planned Course of Study.** Applications are available online at: ***https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/index.html***. You may also call or visit GCSC Enrollment Services to obtain information on the college admissions process, or call (850) 872-3892. Returning students who have not attended GCSC in the past year must re-apply for admission.

While working on admission to this program, you may choose the Associate of Arts as your major <u>only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program.</u> To request a major change, visit: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html. Students declaring an unintended major for the sole purpose of receiving financial aid, may be subject to penalties including repayment of any financial aid received.

Students already enrolled at GCSC can **change their Major Code** at the Enrollment Services Office**;** complete the Program Change Form and either fax or mail it to the Enrollment Services Office.

_____ **Step 2. New students complete a free online College Orientation**. This must be completed prior to course registration. If not completed, a "hold" will be placed on the student's account. The online instructions can be found at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/index.html/admissions/new-student-orientation/index.html

_____ **Step 3. Submit the online application at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html for the SFA Traditional A.S. degree program.**

You will need to upload the following documents with the online application:

- **Proof of age** - Copy of Driver's License or personal ID required
- **2 Personal Reference forms –** (blank forms are in the Program Info Packet) - References can be from a pastor, family friends, former teachers, or current/past employers. Be sure to sign the top section permitting the personal reference to fill out the form. **The original must be mailed to Brittany Page.**

_____ **Step 4. Request OFFICIAL High School transcripts, or GED equivalent with scores, and have them <u>sent</u> to GCSC Enrollment Services Office. Evidence of high school graduation date must be on file to register for classes, per Florida law.** Forms are available in the Enrollment Services Office, online, or at the end of this application packet.

_____ **Step 5. Request OFFICIAL transcripts from <u>all</u> colleges attended, and have them <u>sent to GCSC Enrollment Services.</u>** These must be received and evaluated by Enrollment Services before the application can be considered.

<u>**NOTE**</u>**:**

o When applying to the program, if you have any type of degree including a Bachelor's Degree or higher, any course substitutions must be made on an External Credit Evaluation form. You must request this analysis of your transcripts with the Enrollment Services Office.

o In order for credits to transfer, the college or university must be accredited by a regional or nationally accepted accreditation program as approved by GCSC policies as outlined by the Florida State Department of Education and SACS/ CAAHEP (Accreditation Standards). **Please verify that the course(s) you will be taking from other institutions (a regionally accredited institution) qualify for transfer prior to enrollment in that course.**

____ **Step 6**. **Demonstrate competency in Math/Algebra, English, and Reading using <u>one</u> of the following methods:**

Subject	CLT	PERT	ACT	SAT	College Course
Math/Algebra	16	114	19	480 24 (old)	Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix MAC, MGF, or STA. (Flexible placement does not apply.)
English	38	103	17	490 in Critical Reading or 24 (old)	Eligibility for ENC 1101 English Composition I or successful completion of the course. (Flexible placement does not apply.)
Reading	38	106	19		

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the above, and the test was **not** administered at GCSC, the applicant must have an **official** score report **mailed** to the GCSC Testing Center. Test scores that have been in the student's possession, regardless of whether they are "sealed", stamped, or in a sealed envelope are **not** considered official and will not be accepted. All applicants are responsible for ensuring their scores are received and posted to their GCSC record prior to the application deadline.

____ **Step 7.** **Begin Financial Aid, if needed, by visiting _https://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid_.**

<u>After provisional acceptance </u>into the Surgical First Assistant program, students are required to complete the following items before the first day of class. Students are responsible for the expenses associated with these items. Specific instructions will be provided in the acceptance packet.

1. Completion of BSC2085, BSC2085L, BSC2086, BSC2086L, and HSC1531
2. Report of Vaccination History in PreCheck/SentryMD to include:
   a. Hepatitis B Surface Antigen test
   b. Hepatitis B vaccine series, if surface antigen is positive (or signed declination waiver)
   c. PPD Mantoux/TB Test (may require chest radiograph if previously positive PPD Mantoux/TB test)
   d. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
   e. Varicella (Chicken Pox)
   f. Tetanus-Diphtheria (Tetanus every 10 years)
   g. Influenza (or signed declination)
   h. COVID-19 (or signed declination)
   i. Polio (or signed declination)
3. Copy of current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certificate (BLS for Healthcare Providers) by the AHA
4. Satisfactory fingerprint/criminal background check (Level II)
5. Interprofessional Healthcare Training (every 2 years)
   a. HIPAA
   b. HIV/AIDS
   c. Prevention of Medical Errors
   d. Domestic Violence
   e. Infection Control
   f. Human Trafficking
   g. Interprofessional Education
   h. Airborne Precautions w/Mask Fit
6. Satisfactory physical examination (less than a year old) signed by a licensed physician/health care provider.
7. Satisfactory drug screening results

Student Planning Guide

Please complete, in full, and submit this form with your application packet. We want to be sure that you have been fully informed and understand the career field that you have chosen, so that you can be successful in the completion of this program. For further information about the profession, please visit the GCSC Surgical First Assistant program page at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/surgical-technology/index.html or the Association of Surgical Assistants at *www.surgicalassistants.org*.

1. Describe what you can expect to earn as a Surgical First Assistant.

   Per Hour _____ Per Year _____ Call pay if hospital setting? _____

   In Florida or locally? _____ Do you want to travel? _____
   What about other areas of the country? _____

2. Why do you want to be a Surgical First Assistant?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. What are your goals 5 years from now?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

BE SURE YOU HAVE THE TIME TO COMMIT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. Our goal is to help you plan for all of the things you will need to succeed. You need to plan for and consider these resources to minimize your stress and be successful. Do you currently have the following?

   Family support:

   Transportation:

   Tuition/fee/supplies:

   Living expenses/ bill management:

   Computer resources for online segments (computer with camera, internet access, etc.)

Time Management

To be successful, you will need to allocate the following hours **per day:**

	Low – High	
Homework	2 - 3	hours
Class/lab/clinical	4 - 8	hours
Sleep	6 - 8	hours
Exercise/Time for Self	½ - 1	hours
Work	_____	hours
Family Time	_____	hours
Eating	_____	hours
Bathing	_____	hours
Traveling to and from school	_____	hours
Chores/Paying Bills	_____	hours
Total Time	24	hours

What will be your time challenge?

_____

_____

_____

_____

How will you manage it?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Personal Reference Form

To be completed by the Applicant:

I, _____ give permission to

_____

to complete this personal reference for me.

I appreciate their candor and understand that this form is confidential. However, under Federal Law entitled the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," students are given the right to inspect their records including recommendation forms.

I _____ do _____ do not waive my rights to review the content of this form. I release them from any liability regarding their completion of this form. I have supplied the person completing this form with the following information to return it to the email address below.
Connie Pimentel
Academic Programs Specialist
HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu

Completed by person authorized to complete Reference:

1. How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?

_____

_____How well do you know the applicant? ____Very Well   ____Fairly Well   ____Slightly

2. In the healthcare field, healthcare personnel have access to confidential information from charts and files and

are required to handle drugs and controlled substances. With this in mind, do you place full confidence in the

applicant's integrity? YES _____ NO _____ If no, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

3. Would you allow this individual to provide healthcare for you or your family if you were ill?

YES_____NO_____ If no, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

4. To your knowledge, is there anything that might interfere with or limit the success of this applicant in the healthcare

field? _____

_____

_____

5. How do you perceive this person reacting when placed in a stressful situation or working under pressure?

Circle one: Wise   Sensible   Irrational   Impractical   Hysterical   Other_____

6. Please indicate whether or not you recommend this applicant as being suitable to enter the Healthcare program.

Circle one: RECOMMEND WITH ENTHUSIASM   RECOMMEND
                      RECOMMEND WITH RESERVATIONS   DO NOT RECOMMEND

Please check or write in the spaces to indicate the traits that best describes the applicant:

	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Basis to Judge Applicant
Communication skills, clarity				
Cooperation, team player, gets along w/ others				
Courtesy				
Dependability or Reliability				
Helpful to others, motivated				
Honesty				
Initiative				
Leadership ability				
Maturity, Emotional Stability, Coping, Conflict				
Neatness, Appearance (tidy, clean)				
Organized				
Perseverance, Stamina				
Promptness (responsiveness)				
Quality of Work, Accuracy				
Quantity of Work				
Responsibility				
Seeks help when needed				
Sound decision making				

Signature:_____

(Person Completing Reference)

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone No.: _____

<u>Personal Reference Form</u>

To be completed by the Applicant:

I, _____ give permission to

_____

to complete this personal reference for me.

I appreciate their candor and understand that this form is confidential. However, under Federal Law entitled the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," students are given the right to inspect their records including recommendation forms.

I _____ do _____ do not waive my rights to review the content of this form. I release them from any liability regarding their completion of this form. I have supplied the person completing this form with the following information to return it to the email address below.

Connie Pimentel
Academic Programs Specialist
HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu

Completed by person authorized to complete Reference:

1. How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?

_____

_____How well do you know the applicant? ____Very Well ____Fairly Well ____Slightly

2. In the healthcare field, healthcare personnel have access to confidential information from charts and files and

are required to handle drugs and controlled substances. With this in mind, do you place full confidence in the

applicant's integrity? YES _____ NO _____ If no, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

3. Would you allow this individual to provide healthcare for you or your family if you were ill?

YES_____NO_____ If no, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

4. To your knowledge, is there anything that might interfere with or limit the success of this applicant in the healthcare

field? _____

_____

_____

5. How do you perceive this person reacting when placed in a stressful situation or working under pressure?

Circle one: Wise Sensible Irrational Impractical Hysterical   Other_____

6. Please indicate whether or not you recommend this applicant as being suitable to enter the Healthcare program.
Circle one: RECOMMEND WITH ENTHUSIASM   RECOMMEND
               RECOMMEND WITH RESERVATIONS   DO NOT RECOMMEND

Please check or write in the spaces to indicate the traits that best describes the applicant:

	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Basis to Judge Applicant
Communication skills, clarity				
Cooperation, team player, gets along w/ others				
Courtesy				
Dependability or Reliability				
Helpful to others, motivated				
Honesty				
Initiative				
Leadership ability				
Maturity, Emotional Stability, Coping, Conflict				
Neatness, Appearance (tidy, clean)				
Organized				
Perseverance, Stamina				
Promptness (responsiveness)				
Quality of Work, Accuracy				
Quantity of Work				
Responsibility				
Seeks help when needed				
Sound decision making				

Signature:_____

(Person Completing Reference)

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone No.: _____

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE - COURSE REQUIREMENTS and CURRICULUM PLAN

Courses that may be taken prior to entering *OR* during the Surgical First Assistant Program and must be completed with a "C", or higher, are indicated below. Students are *strongly encouraged* to take as many of these courses as possible *prior* to entering the Surgical First Assistant Program.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

BSC 2085	Anatomy and Physiology I	3 credits
BSC 2085L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1 credit
HSC1531	Medical Terminology	2 credits
BSC 2086	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3 credits
BSC 2086L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1 credit
XXX XXXX	College-level Math (MAC, MGF, or STA prefix)	3 credits
XXX XXXX	POS 2041 American National Government **or** AMH 2010 United States History I **or** AMH 2020 United States History II **and** Civics Literacy examination	3 credits
ENC 1101	English Composition I	3 credits
XXX XXXX	Course in Humanities I, II, or III (designated by • in College Catalog)	3 credits
PSY 2012	Psychology *or* SYG 2000 Sociology	3 credits

SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT CORE COURSES

Course	CRN	Course Name	Credits	Semester Credits
Semester 1: (Fall)	HSC 1000 HSC 1000L HSC 2520	Orientation to Perioperative Services Orientation to Perioperative Services Lab Microbiology for Periop Services	3 1 3	 7
Semester 2: (Spring)	STS 1310 STS 1310L STS 1340C STS 1940C	Surgical Techniques and Procedures Surgical Techniques and Procedures Lab Pharmacology and Anesthesia Intro to Surgery Clinical	5 2 3 2	 12
Semester 3: (Summer)	STS 2323 STS 2323L STS 2361 STS 2944C STS 2953	Surgical Procedures I Surgical Simulation Lab I The Art of Teamwork in Surgery Surgical Clinical I Surgical Technologist Portfolio I	4 1 1 3 1	 10
Semester 4: (Fall)	STS 2324 STS 2324L STS 2365 STS 2945C STS 2936 STS 2330C STS 2954	Surgical Procedures II Surgical Procedures II Lab Professional Skills for the OR Team Surgical Clinical II Surgical Certification Symposium Principles of Surgical Assisting Surgical Technologist Portfolio II	3 1 1 3 1 2 1	 12
Semester 5: (Spring)	STS 2335 STS 2336 STS 2370 STS 2366C	Advanced Integrated Surgical Sciences Advanced Surgical Procedures for the SA Surgical Assisting Clinical I Professional Skills for the SA	2 2 2 2	 8 --------------------
Total Credits				**74**

GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT
PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE**

ENROLLMENT FEES	**In-State**	**Out-of-State**
Placement Tests (if needed)	$ 7.50	$ 7.50
GCSC - application fee (new students)	$ 10.00	$ 10.00
Criminal Background Check (Level II)	$ 85.00	$ 85.00
PreCheck/SentryMD Drug Screening/Compliance Tracker	$ 75.00	$ 75.00
CastleBranch Bridges (HCA Only)	$ 40.00	$ 40.00
Interprofessional Healthcare Training	$ 120.00	$ 120.00

TEXTBOOK FEES

Textbooks, list provided (approx.)		
Required texts	$1,000.00	$1,000.00

ASSOCIATION DUES

Association Surgical First Assistant Student Fee	$ 45.00	$ 45.00

TUITION FEES	($98.75/cc)	($359.71/cc)

Non-experienced Applicant

AS Degree (74 cc including Gen Ed courses)	$ 7,307.50	$ 26,618.54

LAB FEES (includes student accident/liability insurance)

STS 2330C Principles of Surgical Assisting	$ 395.00	$ 395.00
STS 1940C Introduction to Surgery Clinical	$ 77.00	$ 77.00

SUPPLIES/UNIFORMS:	$ 350.00**	$ 350.00

TOTAL PROGRAM FEES (APPROX.)

Non-Experienced Applicant (AS Degree)	**$ 9,512.00**	**$ 28,823.04**

Fee schedule includes approximate fees for the entire program. See current information available in the Enrollment Services Office. Anyone requiring financial aid must initiate arrangements with the Financial Aid Office. Refund policy is outlined in the current Gulf Coast State College Catalog.

** Fees listed above are based on the 2023-2024 academic year and are subject to change without notice due to price changes from the other requirements, manufacturer, or provider.