



## **Surgical Services Program**

### **APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM**

**Application Opens: January 30, 2026**

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2026**

**Program Begins: August**

For more information  
IRSC Information Call Center  
1-866-792-4772

[www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu)

## **IRSC OVERVIEW**

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE (IRSC) is a public, comprehensive college with a statewide and national reputation for excellence. Located in Florida's Treasure Coast region, each of the College's five campuses provide unparalleled educational environments.

IRSC serves approximately 30,000 students annually and offers more than 100 programs leading to Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Continuing a 60-year tradition of responsiveness to community needs, IRSC is committed to advancing educational, cultural, career training, workforce and economic development in its service area.

IRSC was distinguished as the 2019 winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, an honor that recognizes outstanding quality in the areas of completion & transfer, labor market outcomes, learning, equity and more. IRSC is one of the few colleges in the nation to earn the Achieving the Dream™ Leader College designation. The College is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country.

### **EA/EO Statement**

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

*Adriene B. Jefferson, Dean of Northwest Center,  
Equity Officer & Title IX Coordinator*

IRSC Massey Campus ▪ 3209 Virginia Ave. ▪ Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
772-462-7101

### **ACCREDITATION**

The Surgical Services Technology program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting ARC/STSA ([arcst.org](http://arcst.org))

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)  
9355 113<sup>th</sup> St. N. #7709  
Seminole, FL 33775 • Phone 727-210-2350

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Applicants should carefully review the application procedures outlined. Admission to the Surgical Technology program is on a competitive basis. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application process is complete.

**NOTE:** If at any time during the application process you have a change of address or other personal information, update this information via MyPioneerPortal – Student, and notify the Health Science Department of the changes by calling 772-462-7550.

## **PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the Surgical Services program is to provide a dynamic, behavioral and highly technical process directed toward the learning, application and participation of the surgical team member with continuous concern and awareness of the patient as the center focus of care.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROFESSION**

Surgical technologists are Allied health professionals, who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. Surgical technologists work under supervision and delegatory authority of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive and non-invasive surgical procedures, ensuring that the operating room environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety. Surgical technologists are experts in the theory and application of principles of asepsis and sterile technique to combined the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation and tools and technology to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

## **PROGRAM PURPOSE STATEMENT**

To prepare entry-level Surgical Technologists who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.

## **SURGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM CURRICULUM - 64 Credit Hours**

\*General Education courses should be taken prior to acceptance into the program or must be completed while enrolled in the program. All core curriculum (STS prefix), English, A.S. humanities, math, and natural science courses require a grade of “C” or higher. Students must complete all degree requirements to graduate. See the College Catalog for specific requirements for the A.S. degree in Surgical Services.

**Priority consideration for admission** to the program will be given to those who have completed Anatomy and Physiology I and the co-requisite lab (BSC 2085 and BSC 2085L), Anatomy and Physiology II and co-requisite lab (BSC 2086 and BSC 2086L), Medical Terminology I (HSC 2531) and Microbiology for Health Science with corequisite lab (MCB 2010 and MCB 2010L).

Students must complete all degree requirements to graduate. See the College Catalog for specific requirements for the A.S. degree in Surgical Services.

Classes in the Surgical Services program meet four to five days per week for four to eight hours per day. Students need to arrange travel and other commitments to arrive at class or clinical assignments on time. Classes generally begin at 9:00 a.m. Clinical rotations generally begin at 6:00 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. and end at either 3:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. Occasional weekend and evening rotations are required. Students should be prepared to travel to any of the clinical education sites located within the four- county service district of Indian River State College: St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River counties. All clinical education sites are located within a one-hour driving distance from the Massey Campus.

Refer to the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Quick Links, Course Catalog. On the content column**, Click **Associate in Science** and Select **Surgical Services**. All core curriculum, natural science courses English, humanities, and A.S. math require a grade of “C” or higher.

### **SURGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM**

Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for the national certification exam administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA).

The curriculum includes General Education requirements as well as in-depth instruction in professional behaviors, ethical and legal issues, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and surgical procedures.

The clinical education component of the program is conducted at community partner facilities which include acute-care facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, specialty surgery centers, and physician offices that serve the four-county area. Program graduates may choose to continue their education at the university level, or further specialize in surgical services with a surgical first assistant certification (CSFA).

## PRE-COLLEGE PREPARATION FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT












High school students interested in becoming a surgical technologist are advised to follow the recommended course of study for medical science and health careers offered at their school, develop typing and computer skills, and join the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program at their school.

## CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION

During the program, the student must recall and retain the foundational knowledge acquired during their general education coursework and apply to the Surgical Services Technical core.

### Performance Standards

Applied to the Classroom and Clinical Learning Environments

	Critical Thinking
	Emotional Intelligence
	Effective Communication
	Mobility
	Gross & Fine Motor Skills
	Auditory Acuity
	Visual Acuity
	Strength/Stamina
	Compassion
	Resilience
	Professionalism

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Students interested in applying to the program must attend the appropriate, regularly scheduled, virtual program information session. The information session addresses any questions or concerns prospective applicants may have. The sessions also assist students in understanding how to achieve a “**qualified**” status. Students must register and attend an information session prior to the application deadline date.

**Registration for Surgical Services Information Sessions  
can be accessed on the program’s website;**

**<https://irsc.edu/programs/surgical-technology.html>**

**Registration is required**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Completion of the items on this checklist alone does not guarantee acceptance to the Surgical Services program. Students are selected on a selective admission basis. Completion of the checklist is the applicant’s responsibility. Students must be 18 years of age at the start of the program (August).

- \_\_\_ 1. Complete the Indian River State College Application for the Surgical Services program online at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu) and pay the \$30 application fee. Fees are non-refundable.
- \_\_\_ 2. **Priority selection is based on a point system. Refer to page 6 for recommended courses students should complete with a “C” or better prior to the application deadline date.**
- \_\_\_ 3. IRSC and college cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- \_\_\_ 4. Have earned a Standard High School Diploma or GED. Request official and final high school transcripts, former college(s) official transcript(s) and send electronically to the Office of Student Records at IRSC by application deadline date. **College transcripts must be evaluated by the application deadline for validation of competency and/or transfer of credit.**
- \_\_\_ 5. Meet with a Health Science **Academic Advisor** or **Admission Counselor** to review program requirements.
- \_\_\_ 6. Attend a Surgical Services Program Information Session prior to the deadline date (See the Surgical Services website for dates at irsc.edu).
- \_\_\_ 7. Upload a copy of the current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider CPR card. Certification should be valid for the length of the program.
- \_\_\_ 8. Upload the Information Session attendance verification form.

All applications will be reviewed after the application deadline. Selection occurs once a year in which students and alternates are selected. Students will be notified by the Health Science Division of their provisional acceptance into the program via their IRSC RiverMail. At that point, students will receive instructions about how to proceed from the Program Director, including date and time of mandatory program welcome session.

**DO NOT PROCEED WITH DRUG/BACKGROUND SCREENING OR PHYSICAL UNTIL NOTIFIED.**

## APPLYING TO THE SURGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The application for the FALL program will be available after the last Friday in January.

### **Prior to beginning the application process:**

1. Read the Surgical Services Application Booklet.
2. Complete and submit the IRSC Application for the Surgical Services program. (\$30 fee; keep a copy of your receipt).

Note: If at any time during the application process you have a change in personal information (name change, address, phone number or emails), submit the changes through MyPioneerPortal – Student and to the Health Science Division at 772-462-7550.

All applicants will be notified of their status approximately four to six weeks after the deadline date via the email address provided in the Health Science Application. No information is available by telephone. To finalize acceptance once notified of provisional acceptance, students will be required to have a completed IRSC physical examination form, a negative drug screen report and a FDLE background check.

## APPLICANT REVIEW

Admissions/Records must receive the college application and all transcripts prior to the application deadline date. **No documentation will be considered after the Application Deadline date.**

Consideration for program admission is based on the student completing the following by the **application deadline**:

- \_\_\_ 1. 18 years of age or older at the start of program (August)
- \_\_\_ 2. IRSC Admission status must be complete.
- \_\_\_ 3. Required documentation uploaded to complete application.
- \_\_\_ 4. IRSC and College Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- \_\_\_ 5. General Education coursework completed.

All of the above criteria must be met, or the applicant file will not be reviewed and scored.

**Note: Meeting admission criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Students are selected on a selective admission basis.**

Final consideration for admission into the Surgical Services program will be based upon the Health Science Admissions Committee review and scoring of the criteria above.



## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Academic performance in the general education courses for the A.S. Degree in Surgical Services and cumulative college grade point average are indicative of the probability of an applicant's completing the academic portion of the program successfully. It is recommended that students complete as many of the following courses as possible, especially math and science, before applying to the program. In addition to previously stated admission requirements, the selection is based on grades achieved in the courses listed below.

Students are selected based on a point system (see below).

Applications are selected based on these scores until all seats are filled.

A = 4 points    B = 3 points    C = 2 points

COURSE	# OF CREDITS	X POINTS	TOTAL
BSC 2085	3		
BSC 2085L	1		
BSC 2086	3		
BSC 2086L	1		
HSC 2531	3		
MCB 2010	3		
MCB 2010L	1		

All of the applicant review criteria must be met by the application deadline, or the applicant file will not be reviewed and scored. The most qualified (highest scores) are selected.

**NOTE: Meeting admission criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Students are selected on a competitive basis.**

## ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Those applicants who have met the minimum requirements and achieved the highest scores will be notified by the Health Science Division of their provisional acceptance into the program through RiverMail. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon satisfactory results from a drug screen and Federal Bureau of Investigation National Background Checks (FBI/NBC). Information for obtaining these tests/reports will be provided in the provisional acceptance notification package which will be sent to the applicant's RiverMail address. **These reports should not be submitted with initial application materials.**

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Refer to the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Academics, All Programs, Surgical Services Technology** and select **Background Check and Drug Screening Requirements**.

\*All students must read this information carefully to understand what may disqualify them from entry into the program, clinical participation, licensure/certification and/or employment.

### Health/Medical Record

A completed medical health form must also be submitted and approved by the Program Director. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records. The form is located on the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Academics, All Programs, Surgical Services Technology** and select **Health Science Physical Examination and Immunization Form**.

Applicants who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to a Health Science program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record, verified by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or an ARNP must be submitted.

Indian River State College and partnering clinical sites require all health science students who register for clinical courses to have personal health insurance. Students will be asked to show proof of personal health insurance by presenting their insurance policy number, the name of the insurance provider and the telephone number of the provider to clinical preceptors or administrators. **If students do not have health insurance or do not provide proof of health insurance, they will not be eligible for clinic rotation which will result in termination from the program. The Health and Wellness Department has information regarding personal health insurance options. For more information, call 772-462-7825.**

### **Student Drug Screen, Background Check, and Medical Records**

IRSC cannot guarantee employment upon graduation as employers determine the requirements for employment eligibility at their institutions. Students accepted into any IRSC health science program who have a criminal history must recognize that the history may impact their eligibility for employment in health care.

When received, these records will become the property of the College and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers. Students who are out of the program for six months or more must submit new records.

## **NON-ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM**

Applicants who do not qualify for the program will be notified via email and may call the Health Science Office at 772-462-7550 for more information regarding their application.

## **PROGRAM EXPENSES**

A list of approximate costs is located on the IRSC website at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Click **Programs, All Programs, Surgical Services Technology** and select **Surgical Services Program Expenses**. In addition to these costs, the candidate should allow for room, board, transportation and personal living expenses.

## **FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Financial Aid** (grants, loans, work-study) is available to those who qualify. Complete the *FAFSA and IRSC Supplemental Financial Aid Application* to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at 772-462-7450 or toll-free at 1-866-900-3243 (FAID).

**Scholarships** designated for students in the Health Science programs may also be available. Scholarship opportunities are available through MyPioneerPortal.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact the Scholarship Development Coordinator; Sherri Monds at [smonds@irsc.edu](mailto:smonds@irsc.edu)