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What is a surgical technologist?

A surgical technologist is a person who assists the surgeon, nurses, and medical assistants in the operating room. Their duties include preparing the operating room before an operation by setting up the surgical equipment that will be needed, pass the surgical instruments to the surgeons who are conducting the operation, clean the equipment and transfer patients to the recovery room after the operation.

Where do they work?

Surgical technologists work in hospital operating rooms and in surgeon's private practices.

What kind of education do they receive to become certified?

To become a surgical technologist, you may join one of the nine to twenty-four month programs in several community colleges across the United States. These programs provide students with hands-on experience in the operating room by working with the equipment and supplies that the surgeons will be using.

How much do surgical technologists earn?

They earn between \$25,000 to \$44,000 annually depending on experience and the demand in the area.



Careers and the Medical Profession



Health Care Professionals answer Quitman Students questions.

Quitman High School Students participated in **CAMP** week in observance of National HOSA Week. CAMP is an acronym for “**Careers and the Medical Profession**”, a program developed by White County Medical Center to allow students an opportunity to consider career choices in various health-care professions. Students in 7th and 8th grade, and 11th grade Medical Professions Students spent a week in preparation for mock trauma scenarios that were reenacted. Interest inventories were given to all students before they researched their career choices. Students were then allowed to “apply” for medical positions. They took examinations over their job choice, filled out a job application, interviewed for the position, and participated in a simulated random drug screen.

Students who fared well on job criteria were allowed to work one-on-one with health care professionals for the trauma scenario. Those students who “failed” the drug screen were assigned roles as victims for the scenario. Over thirty

health care professionals participated in the event. Second-year HOSA members, under the direction of Todd Wofe, Education Coordinator, were administrators and coordinators. Old Main auditorium was arranged to simulate a typical hospital setting. Once the disaster alert was sounded, multiple “victims” arrived in the emergency room triage center to be prioritized and transferred to the appropriate unit of the hospital. Students were able to reenact with actual health care professionals duties typical of their job choices in hospital setting. The trauma scenario was reenacted for each grade level. At the conclusion of each scenario, students were allowed question and answer time with the professionals.

Quitman Medical Professions Classes are available to Students in grades ten through twelve from all area schools. Students interested in participating in the fall of 2006 should contact their school counselor or e-mail hoys@quitman.k12.ar.us for more information.



Hailey Davis “bags” a victim in cardiac arrest (Lacey Nelson), while other medical personnel prepare to “defibrillate”.