



# Lake Health Surgical Technologist: Carrie Marut



## What does a surgical technologist do?

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment and help doctors during surgeries.

## What kind of skills or traits does a surgical technologist need?

- **Detail-oriented and organized** – Surgical technologists must pay close attention to their work at all times; for example, they need to provide the correct sterile equipment for surgeons during an operation.
- **Dexterity** – Be comfortable working with their hands. They must be able to provide needed equipment quickly.
- **Integrity** – Because they are trusted to provide sterile supplies and quality patient care during surgical procedures, surgical technologists must have integrity.
- **Physical stamina** – Be comfortable standing for extended periods.
- **Stress-management skills** – Working in an operating room can be stressful. Surgical technologists should be able to work well under pressure while providing a high level of care.

## What is the job outlook for a surgical technologist?

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.\*

\*Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Where does a surgical technologist work?

Surgical technologists work in hospitals and surgical centers.

## What kind of education do you need to become a surgical technologist?

Surgical technologists are typically registered nurses and need a four-year degree.

## What is the average salary of a surgical technologist?

The median annual wage for surgical technologists was \$45,160 in May 2016.\*

\*Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

“I love working at Lake Health because we are a family – community, physicians, staff – we all work together. It is fun to go to work. How many people can say they go to work every day and have fun every day? We do!”

– Carrie Marut