



CST/ TS-C or Military Trained-to Surgical First Assistant Program (Associate Degree or College Credit Certificate Options)

Thank you for choosing the Surgical First Assistant Program at Gulf Coast State College (GCSC). There are two options for program completion. You can choose to complete either the College Credit Certificate option with 59 credits or the Associate in Science degree option with 74 credits. You will need to declare your major when you submit your program application by checking the appropriate line on the form. This is an open enrollment-open exit program.

Students who are military trained and/or maintain a current nationally accredited certification status as a surgical technologist (CST or TS-C) can enter the program via the GCSC Articulation as a 2nd year student. All students are required to complete 8 college credits of *Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs which can be transferred in or taken at GCSC*. We will work out a specific, personalized plan for you based on your transcripts, external credit packet, and/or proof of military training as a surgical technologist ensuring that you take at least *25% of the program at our College as per Florida State law, which includes 15 credits for the College Credit Certificate and 19 credits for the A.S. Degree*. The dual (CST/CSFA; TS-C/CSFA) practitioner may receive external credit for both current certifications.

While the SFA program is offered online and you may start anytime, the 4-day on-site lab session, STS 2330C, is offered in Fall and Spring (September and February; Tuesday thru Friday) of each year. This class may be optional for those who have extensive experience as a surgical first assistant already; however, *documentation of experience along with documented validation of all required skills by the surgeon mentor and video will be required to waive the onsite lab session*. This documentation must be submitted prior to the lab session to receive a waiver.

Please read everything in the attached application packet, or visit our website at www.gulfcoast.edu/surgical-first-assistant to learn about our program, student responsibilities, and the job classification of Surgical First Assistant. Additional information regarding this career can be found at www.surgicalassistant.org, the official website of the Association of Surgical Assistants. If you decide that Surgical First Assisting is for you, then begin the process by applying to the program and following the attached step-by-step instructions.

If you have any questions or need to schedule an advising appointment, please feel free to e-mail me at Lmcnaron@gulfcoast.edu or reach me by telephone at 850.873.3551. You may also contact the Health Sciences Academic Program Specialist, Adam Carlini, at ucarlini@gulfcoast.edu or by calling 850.913.3311. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Libby McNaron, RN, MSN, CST/CSFA, CNOR, MSHRM, FAST
Surgical Services Coordinator

rev. 5/2021

Surgical First Assistant

Field Description

A surgical first assistant is an integral part of the surgical team. The team works together in the operating room to ensure the patient receives quality care during a surgical procedure. A surgical first assistant works closely with the surgeon to facilitate the procedure and process of surgery.

Surgical first assistants are expected to prepare and position the patient for surgery, assist in visualization of the operating field, provide hemostasis, harvest surgical grafts, perform closure of incisions, and apply various wound dressings. In addition to these intraoperative duties, surgical first assistants also perform pre- and postoperative activities to facilitate optimal patient care.

Surgical first assistants work under the direct supervision of the surgeon, following facility protocol and policy as well as other laws and regulations.

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. There are many areas of surgery that rely on quality assisting. 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 national salary information gathered in 2017 from the Salary Expert, the overall median average salary for a Surgical First Assistant is \$71,288. The average median salary for the CST is approximately \$44,330.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Association of Surgical Assistants: www.surgicalassistants.org
- American Board of Surgical Assistants: <https://www.absa.net>
- National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting: <http://nbstsa.org>
- National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants: <https://www.nsaa.net/education/examination>
- 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>

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.

CAAHEP-ARC/STSA STANDARDS

All programs must 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), both accredited certifications which are recognized nationally.

Surgical First Assistant School Year	CAAHEP Annual Report Year	Certification Pass Rate	NBSTSA National Average
8/1/2017- 7/31/2018	2019	90%	(2018) 64.5% (76.9% Web)
8/1/2016 - 7/31/2017	2018	94%	(2017) 64.8% (69.1% Web)
8/1/2015 - 7/31/2016	2017	88%	(2016) 66.2%
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	2016	82%	(2015) 66.7%

Surgical Technology Dual Examination School Year	CAAHEP Annual Report Year	Certification Pass Rate	NBSTSA National Average
8/1/2017- 7/31/2018	2019	100%	(2018) 60.4% (75.9% Web)
8/1/2016 - 7/31/2017	2018	100%	(2017) 58.6% (77.9% Web)
8/1/2015 - 7/31/2016	2017	86.7%	(2016) 69.8% (76.9% Web)
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	2016	94.4%	(2015) 70% (75.5% Web)

Certified ST to CSFA Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question: How do I get my clinical cases?

- Easy, you have several options. Request a Planning Guide to help you prepare. Examples:
 - a. SURGEON MENTOR: Agrees to mentor you, sponsors you for privileges at the hospital(s) he works at and arrange your cases and hours with him.
 - b. O.R. MANAGER: Obtain the hospital's approval, support, and the contact name for an Affiliation Agreement between GCSC and your hospital (*hospital administration works this out with GCSC personnel for an affiliation agreement*).
 - c. HOSPITAL JOB DESCRIPTION: Have your hospital's support; a job description in your file that allows you to do these cases as part of your job.
 - d. GCSC: Come stay on the beach for 3 - 5 months and complete your cases in the wonderful sunshine.

2. How many specialties are required to complete the clinical cases?

- A minimum of 3; General Surgery, and then two other specialties. Typically, you need 3 Mentors minimum.
- If you already work with a surgeon, you can do a majority with that specialty surgeon.

3. Question: Is it all online?

Yes, with the exception of a 4-day lab session for the course STS 2330C, which provides hands-on instruction regarding suturing and other skills for assisting. This is offered during September or February (Tuesday - Friday). If you want to start other classes, you may begin during the current term or at the start of term in January, March, May, June, August, or October.

- a. You can transfer in previous anatomy and physiology courses provided that you earned a total of 8 college credits from an accredited institution that included a hands-on lab segment. Otherwise, you can complete your A&P with labs (8 college credits) at your local college and transfer the credits to GCSC. As another alternative, you can complete them as a GCSC transient student (do not have to request transcripts, etc.) at your local college or complete them online as offered for class and lab combination classes (BSC1085C and BSC1086C) using Florida Shines. Transient student status can be awarded after 15 credits taken at GCSC.
- b. We will work out a specific plan for you ensuring that you take at least *25% of the program at our college, which is 15 credits for the College Credit Certificate and 19 credits for the A.S. Degree*. All others for the A.S. Degree can be previous courses taken that are transferred in or taken locally at a regionally / nationally accredited institution and then transferred to GCSC. *You will need to verify that your institution is accredited and acceptable for transfer through our Enrollment Services Office.*
- c. *Progression in Open Entry - Open Exit classes is the student's responsibility. It is expected that full-time students should complete the college credit certification segment of the program within one year of taking STS 2330C; part-time students should take no longer than 6 terms or 2 years to complete the CCC program. The AS Degree general education classes can be taken after passing the CSFA exam or concurrently. It is expected that work will be submitted in each course weekly: one assignment per week in each class minimally.* All classes from the current semester must be completed to continue enrollment into the next "set of classes." Students who are not submitting work on a weekly basis in each enrolled course must communicate with the instructor immediately for an extension. Failure to do so will result in academic probation and possible withdrawal from the program. Interruption in course enrollment of 1 or more terms may require students to reapply to the program, audit previously completed work, or change your academic plan if curriculum changes have occurred.

4. How do I get experience when I graduate?

- a. Work for a hospital or surgery center that hires CST/CSFA or TS-C/CSFA trained staff.
- b. Contact "surgical assisting" groups to see if you want to join their practice.
- c. Relationships, it's all about relationships. Look for a job as a SFA...but take a job as a CST or TS-C in a location you want to work. Build those relationships. Check out the doctors; find out their habits. Is their technique good? Do you mesh well personality-wise with them?
- d. Know your options for billing. Contact billing companies.





Applicant Responsibilities



Apply to the College

- _____ **Step 1. New students should apply for General Admission to GCSC.** Applications are completed online at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/apply> (for **College Credit Certificate Option**, choose **Planned Course of Study: CCC Surgical First Assistant Applicant**; for **Associate in Science Degree Option**, choose **Planned Course of Study: AS Surgical First Assistant Applicant**)
- "While working on admission to this program, you should NOT choose the applicant status. It does not register you in a program. You may choose the Associate of Arts as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program. To request a major change, visit: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/documents/program-change-form.pdf>. Major changes for the current term can only occur during the 1st week of each term for new students (B or C semester). See the academic calendar. 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."*
- Note: once your file is complete and you are conditionally accepted into the limited access program, we can change your major to your limited access major; submission of all paperwork early is essential to acceptance.
- _____ **Step 2. New students must pay the \$10 non-refundable college application fee.** You can pay online through myGCSC (Lighthouse) at <https://mygcsc.gulfcoast.edu>, in-person at the Business Office or Bookstore, or by calling the Business Office at 850.872.3879 to pay with a credit card.
- **Returning students who have not attended GCSC in the last year must re-apply for admission (no charge).**
- _____ **Step 3. New "first time" GCSC students (who are not college transfer students or those with degrees) must complete the College Orientation at no expense, either in person or online.** The instructions are at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/new-student-orientation/index.html>. Orientation must be completed in order to register for courses.
- _____ **Step 4. Request OFFICIAL high school transcripts, or GED equivalent with scores, and have them mailed to Enrollment Services at GCSC. Evidence of high school graduation date must be on file to register for your second semester.** Transcript request forms are available on the GCSC website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/transcripts.html>.
- _____ **Step 5. Request OFFICIAL transcripts from all colleges attended, and have them mailed to Enrollment Services at GCSC.** A request form is available on the GCSC website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/transcripts.html>. A grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or greater (on a 4.0 system) is required for all school, college, and/or university coursework attempted. A GPA less than 2.0 may be accepted, but the student will be admitted on probation. Higher grade point averages will be given greater consideration in the selection process.
- NOTE:** Unofficial or copies of transcripts cannot be used by the program to award official credit. If you want consideration for course substitutions or external credit, you must request an official evaluation of your credits, exams, or experience by contacting the Enrollment Services Office. **Transfer of Credit can only be completed after the official transcripts are received from your former college registrar's office to the GCSC registrar's office.**
- NOTE:** In order for GCSC to accept transfer credits, the college or university must be accredited by a regional or nationally accepted accreditation program as approved by GCSC policies as outlined by Florida State Department of Education and SACS / CAAHEP (Accreditation Standards). Please verify that the course(s) you will be taking from other institutions (an accredited institution) qualify for transfer prior to enrollment in that course.
- _____ **Step 6. Of those applicants who do not have transferable degrees or college credits, you may be required to take the PERT college placement tests (Post-Secondary Education Readiness Tests), prior to entry, and achieve the minimum PERT scores of Reading 106; Writing 103; Math 114; to meet the basic entry skills requirements for the general education college course/A.S. Degree. Those not achieving the minimum recommended entry scores may still apply and be considered for admission on probation.**

- **Students may be exempt from taking the entrance exams, or college orientation, if they have attended college level courses, have an Associate Degree or higher, are deemed flexible placement, or have successfully taken ENC 1101.**
- **For those REQUIRED TO TAKE the College Placement Exam:** The PERT test can be taken at any Florida college-level educational facility, and scores can be transferred to GCSC. Visit <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/testing-services/college-placement-test/testing-dates-times.html> for testing dates and times. Contact the GCSC Testing Office with test questions, verify equivalent tests, and transfer directions.
- If you wish to study prior to taking the exams, you may go online to take free practice tests, obtain a free study guide, and/or purchase a study guide (for reading, writing, and math) online or at a commercial bookstore.
- If you are having scores transferred, they must be officially transferred **from their testing center to our testing center** so they can be entered into your record. The phone number for the GCSC Testing Center is (850) 769-1551, ext. 3856, or ext. 3533.
- The scores are considered in the admission criteria index scores if the number of applicants exceeds the number of open positions in the class.

___ Step 7. **Begin Financial Aid** and seek assistance, as needed. Visit the GCSC website at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid>.

Apply to the Surgical Assistant Program

You may submit your application, external packet and enroll in any general education classes while completing or requesting transfer of the required transferable 8 accredited college credits of Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs (minimum C grade required). If you have already taken an accredited college level Anatomy & Physiology I and II with labs (8 college credits), a request for transfer must be completed and the transcripts analyzed.

___ Step 8. **Submit Surgical First Assistant application forms by e-mail (scan using CamScanner or another App on your phone) to Lmcnaron@gulfcoast.edu**, drop off in person, send by mail to GCSC Health Sciences: Attention: Adam Carlini, 5230 W. U.S. Highway 98, Panama City, Florida 32401, or fax to 850.747.3246 **and include ALL of the FOLLOWING:**

- ___ 1. **Completed Program Application Form (enclosed in packet)**
- ___ 2. **A color photograph (head and shoulder shot minimum) Passport size from printer, Walgreen's, etc.**
- ___ 3. **Signed Duties Acknowledgement Form (enclosed)**
- ___ 4. **Completed Student Planning Guide (enclosed)**
- ___ 5. **Submit proof of age - copy of Driver's License or personal ID required**
- ___ 6. **Submit copy of current CPR certification card and maintain certification throughout the entire program.** Acceptable card must be from an American Heart Association *BLS Healthcare Provider* course.
- ___ 7. **Proof of current certification as a CST/TS-C and college transcripts must be submitted with the external portfolio packet for external credit and/or course substitutions completed. Your student folder must be complete and registration in STS2954 for external credit to be awarded.**

___ Step 9. **Give 2 people you know the Personal Reference Forms (enclosed) to complete. Be sure to print your name and sign the top section giving them permission to fill out the form.** These forms should be mailed to GCSC Health Sciences, Room 200, 5230 West U.S. Highway 98, Panama City, Florida 32401. References can be from a pastor, family friends, former teachers, or current/past employers.

Advising With Program Coordinator

___ Step 10. **Once you have sent in your packet, your file will be initiated and the Program Coordinator, Libby McNaron, will contact you for advising by e-mail. (Submit a frequently checked e-mail address.)**

___ Step 11. **For transfer credit for those with a B.S. degree or higher, Libby McNaron, Lmcnaron@gulfcoast.edu, will evaluate transcripts for possible course substitution, and/or enrollment. (See the attached Master Schedule for the CST/ST-C student.) For those with an Associate's Degree or some transferable college credits, the courses will automatically be reviewed for transfer and entered into your GCSC transcript.**

____ **Step 12. Complete the Conditional Acceptance Packet and Clinical Planning Packet. If it is determined that you must have a CastleBranch Account for your files, you will need to upload all of the following to the account.**

Complete the below forms found in the Conditional Acceptance Packet:

____ **Latex Allergy Assessment Form completed.** *If allergic to latex*, you will need clearance from your physician to attend the Program.

____ **Completed and submitted Admission Career and Advising Form** (obtain from Coordinator).

____ **Complete the Clinical Planning Packet**

____ Meet with your manager or hospital administration regarding the facility you want to use. Provide a copy of the introductory letter to them. Complete the form and submit so we can begin to plan for clinical site.

____ Meet with your physician(s) and/or their office manager to complete the forms for surgeon mentors; submit a minimum of three (1 general surgery and 2 other specialties). **You may have more, but you must have a signed form from every surgeon who completes a counted case with you.** You should submit a minimum of one now, but will submit all others prior to or on the first day you work with that physician at the approved facility.

____ Submit proof of FA Liability Insurance since you already work as a certified surgical technologist. Visit the [CM&F website](#) to learn more and/or sign up. 800.221.4904. <https://www.cmfgroup.com/>.

____ **Complete FACILITY Clinical Clearance Form OR complete the following items following the Castle Branch Directions in the Conditional Acceptance Packet prior to beginning STS 2370C:**

____ A *current* GCSC Physical Examination form, with satisfactory results, signed by a healthcare provider. Physical examination is good for the length of the program (CST/TS-C to CSFA).

____ Mandatory PPD, TB skin test, TB blood test, or current chest x-ray report less than a 1 yr. old with a TB Screening Form (obtain from Coordinator). This is an annual requirement.

____ GCSC Immunizations Form completed and signed by a healthcare provider.

____ Satisfactory background check, at student's expense, which must be completed as instructed by GCSC Staff. (no upload to CastleBranch on this item)

____ A chain-of-custody 10-panel urine drug screen, at student's expense, is required by affiliating clinical agencies for clinical clearance.

____ **Completed**

____ Affiliation Agreement with facility, and a copy of job CSFA Job Duties memorandum that specify the SFA advanced job skills as part of your duties under the direction of the supervising mentor.

Starting Courses

____ **Step 13. Pay for the courses that you're registered in.** You can pay online through myGCSC (Lighthouse) at <https://mygcsc.gulfcoast.edu>, in-person at the Business Office or Bookstore, or by calling the Business Office at 850.872.3879 to pay with a credit card.

Note: **Fees not paid by the due date will result in being dropped from class.** If this happens, you will need to enroll again. If you enroll after the Semester starts, you **MUST** pay the same day you are registered.

____ **Step 14. Go to <https://mygcsc.gulfcoast.edu> and select Log-in from the main menus to enter "CANVAS".** Follow directions to log-in. CANVAS will be available the day after classes start for the semester, or as notified by the Instructor. Select the course, then go to the Modules tab at the left hand side, choose the Introduction Folder, and print the syllabus and follow the directions. Explore all items in this folder before progressing to the first assignment.

____ **Step 15. Student will contact instructor within CANVAS for an orientation phone call or online orientation session.** This orientation meeting will provide information on what to expect during the course, and what the Instructor expects from the student. For any questions, you may call 850.873.3551.

Application deadline:
Once you fill out the packet, we will determine if a Fall, Spring, or Summer Entry works best for you.
Applications are accepted for the current term provided space is still available.



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students who 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 of Health Sciences at GCSC. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the program coordinator.

Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. The student must also be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. It is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check.

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 (www.doh.state.fl.us/) for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

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 can be found online at:

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) Health care fraud in the practice of a health care profession 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.

Student Planning Guide

Please complete, in full, and submit this form with your application packet. As an Instructor, I 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. If you have any difficulty completing this form, **you can find the answers in the application packet.** For further information, go to either our website or the website of our professional organizations, ***www.surgicalassistants.org*** or ***www.absa.net***. If you still have questions, e-mail ***Lmcnaron@gulfcoast.edu***, or call Libby McNaron at 850.873.3551 for assistance.

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 enroll in this program? Have an A.S. Degree?

3. Why do you want to be a Surgical First Assistant? Have an A.S. Degree?

4. What are your goals? 2 years from now: _____
 10 years from now: _____

5. **BE SURE YOU HAVE THE TIME:** Our goal is to help you plan for all of the things you will need to be successful. For information, go online to the Surgical First Assistant website, or e-mail us for the steps to apply for financial aid. You do need to plan for these resources to be successful with as little stress as possible. Do you have the following?

Family support:

Transportation:

Tuition:

Living expenses/ Bill management:

Computer resources for online segments:

Time PER DAY: Management of time, We have filled in the time we know that you need to be successful.

	Low -High	
Homework	<u>2</u> - <u>3</u>	hours
Class	<u>4</u> - <u>8</u>	hours
Sleep	<u>6</u> - <u>8</u>	hours
Exercise/Time for Self	<u>½</u> - <u>1</u>	hours
Work	_____	hours
Family Time	_____	hours
Eating	_____	hours
Bathing	_____	hours
Traveling to and from school	_____	hours
Responsibilities (work/chores/bills)	_____	hours
<i>Total Time</i>	<u>24</u>	<i>hours</i>

What will be your time challenge?

How will you manage it?

Surgical First Assistant Duties Acknowledgement Form



Duties and Responsibilities

This program prepares students to sit for dual certification examinations as a surgical technologist and surgical first assistant. Students may be employed as a surgical technologist and as a surgical first assistant. A surgical first assistant is a healthcare professional whose primary responsibility is to maintain the sterile field, understand the procedure being performed, anticipate the needs of the surgeon, maintain a current knowledge base, maintain quality patient care during the operative procedure, and maintain constant vigilance regarding the adherence of aseptic technique by all members of the surgical team. They handle the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary before, during, and after the surgical procedure. In addition to the technical aspects of the profession, the First Assistant must always be aware of the patient's condition and needs.

Special Qualifications

In addition to minimum requirements for Reading, Language and Math, the student must unassisted:

1. Demonstrate ability to comprehend and interpret written material; be able to make appropriate judgment decisions.
2. Follow written and oral/verbal instructions in English. Possess short-term and long-term memory sufficient to perform tasks such as, but not limited to, mentally tracking surgical supplies; performing anticipation skills during the operation.
3. Synthesize information from written material and apply the knowledge to various situations.
4. Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills during patient, staff, and faculty interactions.

Psychomotor Qualifications

1. Vision – normal, corrected. Demonstrate sufficient visual ability enough to load a fine (10-0) suture onto needles and needle holders, with/without corrective lenses and while wearing safety glasses. Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate and function while in the sterile surgical environment.
2. Hearing – normal, corrected, or aid able. Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips and within 20 feet. Hear activation/warning signals on equipment.
3. Smell – able to detect odors sufficient to maintain environmental safety and patient needs.
4. Touch – normal tactile sensitivity. Manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment with speed, dexterity, and good eye-hand coordination.

Physical Qualifications

1. Able to stand, bend, stoop, and/or sit for long periods of time in one location, as much as 8-10 hours in rare circumstances, with minimum/no breaks.
2. Able to lift a minimum of 20-25 pounds. Able to push/pull equipment weighing up to approximately 40 pounds for up to 20% of work time.
3. Able to refrain from nourishment or restroom breaks for periods up to 6 hours.
4. Ability to walk or stand up for up to 80% of the work time.
5. Able to assist with and/or lift, move, position, and manipulate the patient who is unconscious with or without assistive devices if called upon.
6. Successfully complete a CPR certification course. Acceptable cards are the American Heart Association **BLS Provider**, American Red Cross for **Professional Rescuer**, or American Safety and Health Institute **CPR-Pro**.

Environment

1. Position involves exposures to blood and body fluids, and all areas of patient care.
2. Also exposed to cool temperatures, hazardous equipment, fumes/odors and noise.
3. Tolerate the use and wearing of personal protective equipment such as masks or respirator, goggles, face shields, gloves, gowns, and lead aprons or other equipment as necessary for your shift 1- 12 hours or longer if you cannot be relieved for call or emergencies.

Communication Qualifications

1. The ability to interact and verbally communicate with others. Demonstrate positive interpersonal skills during patient, staff, and faculty interactions.
2. Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in emergency situations.
3. Knowledge of basic written, grammar, and spelling skills.
4. Ability to communicate and understand fluent English both verbally and in writing.

I have read the above and feel that it is within my ability to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of a Surgical First Assistant. I do _____ do not _____ (check one) have any problem in meeting the above technical requirements. In the event that I am selected for the program, I understand that a TB skin test must be completed or CXR done and results submitted; a Medical Examination form from a personal physician (Health Status) and a completed/updated Immunization form must be submitted.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Surgical First Assistant - CST/TS-C Applicant – College Credit Certificate (CCC) Schedule

Recommended Plan of Study	Course Number	Course Name	College Credits Completed	Clock Hours	College Credits	Semester-Sequence	Class 15/1	Lab 40/1	Clinical 80/1
Required	BSC2085	Anatomy - Physiology I		45	3	*Transfer or GCSC Transient	45		
	BSC2085L	Anatomy - Physiology I Lab		30	1			30	
Required	BSC2086	Anatomy - Physiology II		45	3			45	
	BSC2086L	Anatomy - Physiology II Lab		30	1				30
Total A&P Classes – Required both options				150	8		90	60	
Required	HSC1531	Medical Terminology		30	2	Required	30		
Required	HSC2520	Micro and IC with SA Module		45	3	Open Entry-Open Exit	45		
Required	STS1340C	Pharmacology & Anesthesia with SA Module		60	3	Open Entry – Open Exit	45	15	
Required	STS2361	Art of Teamwork		15	1	Open Entry – Open Exit	15		
Required	STS2365	Prof Skills		15	1	Open Entry – Open Exit	15		
*External Credit Packet	*STS2954	ST Portfolio II * Up to a maximum of 45 External Credits-National Accredited Certification.		15	1 + Ext Credits	Open Entry – Open Exit	15		
Required: *Same Semester	*STS2330C	Principles of Surgical Assisting (Exact dates: Lab Sessions Feb. or Sept.)		65	2	Open Entry – Open Exit	30	35	
Required: *Same Semester	*STS2370	Surgical Assisting Clinical I		150	2	Open Entry – Open Exit			240
Required	STS2335	Advanced Integrated Surgical Sciences		30	2	Open Entry – Open Exit	30		
Required	STS2336	Advanced Surgical Procedures for the SA		30	2	Open Entry – Open Exit	30		
LAST CLASS	STS2936	Surgical Certification Symposium		15	1	Open Entry – Open Exit	15		
*Must be taken together; register for all at same time. Total Core SFA Classes				610	19+=51	CORE ONLY	270	50	240
Total Credits must be taken for CCC for the CST to Graduate. Note External Credit Packet will add any remaining credits to = 59 credits.				760	27 Min.	*A&P with Core	360	110	240
25% must be taken @GCSC to graduate as per State Law – Minimum CCC- 15 credits; Minimum AS Degree 19 credits. For Additional Credits – See your individualized plan.					0-12 credits	Academic Plan			

Surgical First Assistant - Applicant - A.S. Degree (SFA2-AS) Additional Requirements

A.S. Degree Courses	Course Number	Course Name	College Credits	Clock Hours	College Credits	Semester-Sequence	Class 15/1	Lab 55/1	Clinical 80/1
A.S. Degree prior to, with low credit semesters, or after SFA completion	ENC1101	English Composition I		45	3	A.S. Degree	45		
	PSY2012 or SYG2000	Psychology OR Sociology		45	3	A.S. Degree	45		
		Humanities (Prefer Biomedical Ethics)		45	3	A.S. Degree	45		
		Mathematics (MAC, MGF or STA)		45	3	A.S. Degree	45		
Required for AS Degree	Elective Choices STS2366C OR STS2367	Professional Skills for the SA OR Management in HC (Highly Recommended for Certificate)		90 or 45	3 or 3	Open Entry – Open Exit	30 or 45	30 1 st option	30 1 st Option
TOTAL Additional A.S. Degree Courses				345 or 300	15		195 or 210	30 or 60 1 st Option	60 or 90 1 st Option
Total AS Degree Credits at GCSC. External Packet will add any remaining credits to Total the 74 credits required to graduate.					3+-15 Varies with *Transfer				

Check the appropriate one, Sign and Attach this form to the application submitted to the Health Sciences Division.

Articulation for the CST/TS-C to CSFA or CST/CSFA to A.S. Degree Student: All students must demonstrate proof of 8 college credits of Anatomy and Physiology with labs either through transfer credits or course completion. Students who are military trained or maintain a nationally accredited certification as a surgical technologist (CST, TS-C) can enter the SFA program via this GCSC Articulation as a second year student. Up to 45 college credits may be awarded by submission of their portfolio and validated proof of a nationally accredited and current certification as a surgical technologist (CST/TS-C) and/or military proof of surgical technology training. For the CST/CSFA or TS-C/CSFA student, up to 45 credits may be awarded by external credit and/or course substitution. Note: As per Florida law, to graduate from a Florida college, the student must complete 25% of the credits required for the degree or certificate. The student will have to take a minimum of 15 credits from GCSC to graduate from GCSC with the College Credit Certificate (CCC). As required by the State of Florida, to graduate from the SFA2-AS Degree, the student will have to take a minimum of 19 credits at GCSC to graduate with an SFA2-AS Degree. Degree plans will be developed with the student based on transfer credit, the CSFA curriculum and the needs of the student.

Fee Schedule **

Surgical First Assistant, CST/TS-C Applicant, College Credit Certificate

CCC PROGRAM:	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
<u>ENROLLMENT FEES</u>		
PERT Examination (if needed)	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
GCSC - application fee (new students)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Background Check	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00
CastleBranch: Drug Screening/Compliance Tracker	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Vaccinations/Physical Exam/Flu Shot (approx.)	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
<u>TEXTBOOK FEES</u>		
Textbooks, list provided (approx.)		
Required texts	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
<u>ASSOCIATION DUES</u>		
Association Surgical First Assistant Student Fee	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00
<u>TUITION FEES - CCC</u> (See current College Catalog)		
* 18 minimum credits as per plan (previous page)	\$ 1,777.50 or	\$ 6,474.78 or
8 credits A&P as per plan includes A&P prn	\$ 790.00	\$ 2,877.68 *Will cost less
Cost Per Credit (In-State \$98.75; Out-of-State \$359.71)		if taken at your institution.
<u>LAB FEES</u> (includes student accident insurance)		
STS2330C Principles Surg Assist Lab	\$ 324.00	\$ 324.00
STS2370 Surg. Assisting Clinical I (Includes Exam)	\$ 244.00	\$ 244.00
**Total Fees SFA-CCC (approx.): Maximum Cost	\$3,270.50	\$7,967.78
Or		
**Total Fees SFA-CCC (approx.): Minimum Cost	\$2,283.00	\$4,370.68

A.S. DEGREE PROGRAM-ADDITIONAL COSTS:

(Note: Can be transferred in from your local college provided you have taken a minimum of 19 credits at GCSC.)

TUITION FEES - A.S. Degree (See current College Catalog.)

Other/General Education (additional 14 college credits)	\$ 1,382.50	\$ 5,035.94
Cost Per Credit Hour (In-State \$98.75; Out-of-State \$359.71)		

Total Program Fees: A.S. Degree plus CCC (approx.):	\$ 4,653.00	\$13,003.72 AS Degree with No transfer Credit
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For Comparison Purposes:

Tuition and Lab Fees Only for CCC-SFA 18 Credits:	\$2,345.50	\$ 7,042.78
26 Credits:	\$3,135.50	\$ 9,920.46

** Current fee schedule includes approximate fees for the entire program. Fees are subject to change without notice. See current information available in the Enrollment Services Office.

Anyone requiring financial aid must initiate arrangements with the Financial Aid office; contact Financial Aid FA@gulfcoast.edu. Follow the steps in order. Refund policy is outlined in the current GCSC catalog. The certification examination application will be completed as part of the required graduation exercises. Any additional expenses such as scrubs or lab coats, etc. may also be needed depending on your clinical arrangements. Used or a previous edition textbook will be acceptable.

Note: Core classes are offered each semester.

Students may begin A.S. degree classes or A&P classes any Semester or Mini-Semester of the year.

Surgical First Assistant Program

SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT

Surgical First Assistant is a rewarding career opportunity. In this program of study, students are taught the technical skills necessary to become employed as a Surgical First Assistant.

Surgical First Assistants are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care in a variety of settings. This individual works under the supervision of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. A surgical first assistant possesses expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combines the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

Surgical First Assistants have the primary responsibility for maintaining the sterile field, understanding the procedure being performed, anticipating the needs of the surgeon, maintaining knowledge base, maintaining quality patient care during the operative procedure, and being constantly vigilant that all members of the team adhere to aseptic technique. They handle the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure.

CAREER OUTLOOK AND OPPORTUNITIES

Career possibilities include being a Staff First Assistant in the Operating Room, Labor and Delivery, Outpatient Surgery, for a physician, or self-employed. Other opportunities include becoming a chief technologist, central sterile manager, materials manager, surgery scheduler, clinical preceptor, or educator. Associated careers include medical sales representatives, office manager, tissue/organ procurement and transplantation technician, research or veterinary assistant, or becoming a laser or endoscopic technician. The Surgical First Assistant may choose to pursue a college education to become a physician assistant or surgeon. Other doors may be opened in the health care field as outlined in brochures by the Association of Surgical First Assistants.

ACCREDITATIONS

The Surgical First Assistant program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of Accreditation Review Council of Education of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). **CAAHEP ACCREDITED.**

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

9355 – 113th ST. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775-7709

727.210.2350

www.caahep.org

Gulf Coast State College is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, 1866 Southern Lane; Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; Phone: 404.679.4500; Fax: 404.679.4558. Website: www.sacscoc.org; <http://sacscoc.org/membershipInfo.asp>

AFFILIATIONS

Gulf Coast State College is affiliated with Ascension Sacred Heart Bay, Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center, Northwest Florida Surgery Center, Panama City Surgery Center, Panama City Plastic Surgery, and Gulf Coast Facial Plastics & ENT in Panama City, Florida, and Plastic Surgery Institute and Spa (Lynn Haven). Additional clinical sites utilized are Jackson Hospital (Marianna), Northwest Florida Community Hospital (Chipley), Doctor's Memorial Hospital (Bonifay), Fort Walton Beach Medical Center (Fort Walton Beach), Twin Cities (Niceville), Southeast Alabama Medical Center (Dothan), Capital Regional Medical Center (Tallahassee), and Sacred Heart Health System Pensacola which includes Pensacola, Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf (Port St. Joe), and the Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast (Destin).

***Facilities may be added or deleted on the needs of the program and affiliates. Affiliation agreement(s) are necessary for you to complete the clinical components of the program. We will need the education department and/or manager contact information as soon as possible to initiate an affiliation agreement with your facility.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Association of Surgical Assisting

Website: www.surgicalassistant.org

Benefits include:

- Semi-Annual workshops with education in March and October each year
- Monthly AST journal with contact hours to maintain certification
- Sets certification requirements, provides continuing education contact hours, tracks member contact hours, and organizes State Assembly Committees to lobby for Surgical First Assistants

STUDENT TIME COMMITMENT

This course is approximately 9 months of intense study and requires many hours of homework and exam practice to be successful. Students should plan to be online via computer, reading/studying, a minimum of the **2 – 3 hours per night**. Additional practice suturing time may be necessary to master specific skills such as knot tying, suturing and other advanced skills. The amount of preparation time and homework varies according to the needs of the individual but is **usually a minimum of 2-3 hours every day Monday through Friday (or the weekend) for the average student.**

For the CST/ST-C, self-directed study computerized assignments are necessary requiring that you be dedicated and on time with course submissions. We look forward to helping you along this path of discovery to a new successful career. A home computer with the capability to complete and/or read Word (.doc) and Adobe (.pdf) documents, download, scan and e-mail is essential to your success. Rule of thumb...you should complete at least one practice quiz/exam and one written assignment every week (quizzes) and your clinical paperwork every day.

CASE REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements include completion of a minimum of 140 procedures as follows.

140 cases must be performed with student in the "Surgical Assistant" role, as outlined in the 3rd Edition of the 2013 Core Curriculum for the ASA. The cases can be completed as follows.

1. **Cases counted must be identified as requiring a SA via Concensus survey by surgeons (2013 Physicians as Assistants at Surgery 2013 Survey List) as requiring an assistant either Almost Always or Sometimes.** (A copy is available in the first STS 2330L Lab course and both clinical courses STS 2371 and STS 2370 Resource Folder.)
2. **A Minimum of 20 General Surgery cases.**
3. **A minimum of 20 Surgical Specialty cases in two different specialties.** Two surgical specialties are chosen by the student and completed in each surgical specialty below.

Example:

- a. The student chooses to complete 20 cases in orthopedic surgery.
 - b. The student chooses to complete 20 cases in OB-GYN.
4. Student can complete the remaining 80 cases in any combination of specialties.

Specialty Areas:

Cardiovascular	Peripheral Vascular	Thoracic Surgery	Orthopedic	Neurosurgery
OB-GYN	Urology	Plastic Surgery	General Surgery	Endo-surgery
Ophthalmology	Otorhinolaryngology	Oral/Maxillofacial	Pediatrics	Oncology

CST-to-CSFA AS or CCC Degree Plan Enrollment Options

PART TIME STATUS: 4 Semesters – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

<p>I already have 8 college credits of Anatomy and Physiology with Labs:</p> <p>1st Term: (7-9 Credits if needed) Are you Ready for ONLINE? - Conditional Acceptance based on successful completion of the first four courses within the time frame of 8 -16 Weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSC2520 Micro Review (3) 2. STS1340C Pharm Review (3) 3. STS2361 Teamwork (1) 4. #HSC1531 (2) PRN (Residency) <p>2nd Term (7 Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. *STS2330C Prin. SA (Lab Session on site) (2) 6. STS2335 (2) 7. *STS2370 Clinical (2) 8. STS2954 Portfolio (1) Ext Pkt. <p>3rd Term (7 Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. STS2336 (2) 10. STS2365 Pro Skills (1) 11. STS2367 Mgt (3) AS Degree ONLY 12. STS2936 (1) <p>4th Term (+ Credits) <u>AS Degree Only</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Any Gen Ed needed. <p>*Should be taken together 11-13 Classes (18 CCC or 21 AS Degree Credits) plus any General Education Classes Needed (English, Math, etc.).</p>	<p>My A&P does not meet the criteria for Transfer as 8 college credits with labs:</p> <p>1st Term: (7-9 Credits) Are you Ready for ONLINE? - Conditional Acceptance based on successful completion of the first four courses within the time frame of 8 -16 Weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSC2520 Micro Review (3) 2. STS1340C Pharm Review (3) 3. STS2361 Teamwork (1) 4. STS2954 Portfolio (1) Ext Pkt. 5. #HSC1531 (2) PRN (A&P needed/Residency) <p>2nd Term (8 Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. *STS2330C Prin. SA (Lab Session on site) (2) 7. STS2335 Adv Integrated Sciences (2) 8. STS2365 Pro Skills (1) 9. *STS2370 Clinical (2) <p>3rd Term (6 Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. STS2336 Adv Surgical Procedures (2) 11. A&P I with Lab (4) Transient Student (Full term or 8 week miniterm) <p>4th Term (5 Credits–CCC) (8+ any Gen Ed-AS Degree):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. STS2936 (1) 13. A&P II with Lab (4) Transient Student (Full term or 8 week miniterm) 14. STS2367 Mgt. (3) <u>AS Degree Only</u> 15. Plus any Gen Ed needed <u>AS Degree Only</u>. <p>*Should be taken together 14-15 Classes (26 CCC or 29 AS Degree Credits) plus any General Education Classes Needed (English, Math, etc.).</p>
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FULL TIME Status CST-TO-CSFA: 2-4 SEMESTERS

<p>I already have 8 college credits of Anatomy and Physiology with Labs:</p> <p>1st Term: (10 CCC-12 AS Degree Credits) Are you Ready for ONLINE? - Conditional Acceptance based on successful completion of the first four courses within the time frame of 8 -16 Weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSC2520 Micro Review (3) 2. STS1340C Pharm Review (3) 3. STS2365 Pro Skills (1) 4. STS2954 Ext Credit Pkt (1) 5. STS2335 Adv Int Science (2) 6. #HSC1531 (2) PRN <p>2nd Term Fall or Spring (8 CCC-11 AS Degree Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. *STS2330C Prin SA (Lab Session on site) (2) 8. STS2336 Adv Surg Proc (2) 9. STS2361 Teamwork (1) 10. *STS2370 Clinical (2) 11. STS2936 (1) <u>Last Class to Complete – Certification Prep.</u> 12. SA Elective: STS2367 Mgt in HC (3) <u>AS Degree Only</u> <p>3rd Term (? Credits-AS DEGREE ONLY):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Any Gen Ed you need for the AS Degree. <p>*Should be taken together 12-13 Minimum Classes (18 CCC or 21 AS Degree Credits) plus any General Education Classes Needed (English, Math, etc.).</p> <p># Note for Both Options: According to state law, residency requires that 25% of the program must be taken at GCSC (15 Credits –CCC and 19 credits – AS Degree). However, if any classes above are transfer credits, the student students may be required to take additional program classes to meet that residency requirement.</p>	<p>My A&P does not meet the criteria for Transfer as 8 college credits with labs:</p> <p>1st Term: (10 CCC-12 AS Degree Credits) Are you Ready for ONLINE? - Conditional Acceptance based on successful completion of the first four courses within the time frame of 8 – 16 Weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSC2520 Micro Review (3) 2. STS1340C Pharm Review (3) 3. STS2365 Pro Skills (1) 4. STS2954 Ext Credit Pkt (1) 5. STS2335 Adv Int Science (2) 6. #HSC1531 (2) PRN <p>2nd Term Fall or Spring (8 CCC-11 AS Degree Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. *STS2330C Prin SA (Lab Session on site) (2) 8. STS2336 Adv Surg Proc (2) 9. STS2361 Teamwork (1) 10. *STS2370 Clinical (2) 11. STS2936 (1) <u>Last Class to Complete – Certification Prep.</u> <p>3rd Term (4 or more Credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. STS2367 Mgt in HC (3)- AS Degree Only 13. Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab (4) – Transient Student (Full term or 8 week miniterm) 14. Plus, any Gen Ed you need. <p>4th Term (4 or more credits):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anatomy & Physiology II with lab (4) Transient Student (Full term or 8 week miniterm) 2. Plus, any Gen Ed you need. <p>*Should be taken together 12-16 Minimum Classes (26 CCC or 29 AS Degree Credits) plus any General Education Classes Needed (English, Math, etc.).</p>
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**Option for A&P Requirements: AN ONLINE COURSE FOR A&P I and II - 8 College Credits (Includes Lab – ALL ONLINE).
Northwest Florida College <https://www.nwfsc.edu/online/> BSC1085C and BSC1086C will transfer in.
You can register for this course once you have completed 15 credits at GCSC.**

**GCSC Health Sciences Division
Personal Reference Form – CST/TS-C to CSFA Applicant Surgical First Assistant Program**

COMPLETED BY STUDENT: I, (PRINT NAME) _____ give permission to _____ to fill out 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 do release them from any liability regarding their completion of this form. I have supplied the person completing this form with a stamped addressed envelope to the following address: Gulf Coast State College, Attn: Adam Carlini, 5230 West Highway 98, Panama City, Florida 32401.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Completed by person authorized to complete Reference:

- How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity? _____
How well do you know the applicant? ___Very Well ___Fairly Well ___Slightly
- 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 why: _____
- Would you allow this individual to provide healthcare for you or your family if you were ill? YES _____ NO _____ If no, please explain why: _____
- To your knowledge, is there anything that might interfere with or limit the success of this applicant in the healthcare field? _____
- 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 _____
- 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:

	<i>Above Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>No Basis to Judge Applicant</i>
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 of Person Completing Reference: _____
Position/Title: _____
Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

GCSC Health Sciences Division

Personal Reference Form – CST/TS-C to CSFA Applicant Surgical First Assistant Program

COMPLETED BY STUDENT: I, (PRINT NAME) _____ give permission to _____ to fill out 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 do release them from any liability regarding their completion of this form. I have supplied the person completing this form with a stamped addressed envelope to the following address: Gulf Coast State College, Attn: Adam Carlini, 5230 West Highway 98, Panama City, Florida 32401.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Completed by person authorized to complete Reference:

- How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity? _____
How well do you know the applicant? ___ Very Well ___ Fairly Well ___ Slightly
- 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 why: _____
- Would you allow this individual to provide healthcare for you or your family if you were ill? YES _____ NO _____ If no, please explain why: _____
- To your knowledge, is there anything that might interfere with or limit the success of this applicant in the healthcare field? _____
- 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 _____
- 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 of Person Completing Reference: _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone No.: _____