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Surgical Technology Certification Options

[ORS 676.870 through 676.890](#) describe the regulations pertaining to the practice of surgical technology and education requirements in ambulatory surgery centers and hospitals. Recent amendments were made to ORS 676.875 and can be found under [2022 Oregon Laws, Section 65](#). These regulations, along with Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) [333-076-0137](#) [Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs)] and [333-520-0050](#) (Hospitals), provide for the following:

Education Requirement:

Persons are not eligibleⁱ to practice surgical technology in a hospital or ambulatory surgery center unless they have completed **both**

- An educational program accredited by CAAHEP or ABHES **and**
- Hold a certification by the NBSTSA, JCAHPO, or NCCT.

	If you have Education AND NCCT / NBSTSA / JCAHPO Status	You may:	References
Traditional training	<u>Completed</u> a CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited education program	You have certification	Reference 2022 OL §1, subsection (1)(a), subparagraph (B)(i) and OARs 333-076-0137(7) & (8) and 333-520-0050(7) & (8).
	<u>Completed</u> a CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited education program	You're working toward obtaining certification	Reference 2022 OL §1, section 2 and OARs 333-076-0137(11) and 333-520-0050(11).

Apprenticeship	<p>Completed a CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited education program;</p> <p>and</p> <p>are an apprentice, enrolled in a registered apprenticeship</p>	You have not yet obtained certification	Practice surgical technology while obtaining on-the-job, supervised training in an ASC or hospital that is working in partnership with your apprenticeship program.	Reference 2022 OL §1, subsection (3)(a) and (b) and OARs 333-076-0137(12) and 333-520-0050(12).
	<p>Enrolled in a CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited education program</p> <p>and</p> <p>are an apprentice enrolled in a registered apprenticeship or</p>	You have not yet obtained certification	Practice surgical technology while obtaining on-the-job, supervised training in an ASC or hospital located in a rural or medically underserved community that is working in partnership with your apprenticeship program. This practice may continue for no more than three years during the time you are enrolled in and attending the CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited educational program.	Reference ORS 676.885 and OARs 333-076-0137(13) and 333-520-0050(13).
Rural / Medically Underserved community	<p>Enrolled in a CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited education program</p> <p>and</p> <p>are working in an ASC or hospital in a rural or medically underserved community.</p>	You have not yet obtained certification	Practice surgical technology while obtaining on-the-job, supervised training in an ASC or hospital located in a rural or medically underserved community. This practice may continue for no more than three years during the time you are enrolled in and attending the CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited educational program.	Reference ORS 676.885 and OARs 333-076-0137(13) and 333-520-0050(13).
Military / Public Health Service	<p>Completed a training program in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps;</p> <p>and</p>	Not required	Practice surgical technology in an ASC or Hospital	Reference ORS 676.885 and OARs 333-076-0137(7)(a) and 333-520-0050(7)(a).

	Completed 16 hours of continuing education every two years			
Legacy	Worked as a surgical technologist in an ASC, hospital, or for a federal government agency between January 1, 2014 through January 1, 2017; and Completed 16 hours of continuing education every two years	Not required	Practice surgical technology in an ASC or Hospital	Reference ORS 676.885 and OARs 333-076-0137(7)(c) and 333-520-0050(7)(c).

NOTES: Under the law ([ORS 676.880](#)), the education requirements specified do not apply to a licensed health care practitioner if the duties of a surgical technologist are within the licensed practitioners scope of practice, and a hospital or ASC allows the practitioner to perform the duties.

NCCT permits individuals who have completed other accredited education programs to complete the NCCT certification process. Only CAAHEP- or ABHES-accredited training programs are accepted in Oregon. Completion of NCCT certification by itself or after completion of a non-CAAHEP/ABHES-accredited training program would not qualify an individual for practice in Oregon.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. If you need this document in an alternate format please contact our office at 971-673-0540 or mailbox.hclc@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

ⁱ Reference [2022 OL §1, subsection \(1\)\(a\), paragraphs \(A\) and \(B\)](#) and [OARs 333-076-0137\(7\)\(b\)](#) and [333-520-0050\(7\)\(b\)](#).