

ABHES Annual Conference
February 2011
New Orleans, Louisiana

Fact Sheet- National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)

Organization

NBSTSA
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Littleton, Colorado 80120
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President: Lisa Reed CST, RN, CNOR
Chief Executive Officer: Ron Kruzal CST, MA

Overview of the CST Credentialing Program

Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) Credential

Approximately 10,000 candidates tested in 2010
Approximately 33,000 CST's currently certified by the NBSTSA

NBSTSA examination programs are fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

Examination Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for candidates sitting for the CST examination:

- Graduate of NBSTSA recognized surgical technology programs (ABHES/ CAAHEP accredited).
- Current or previously certification as a CST.

Testing Modalities

CST candidates that have established eligibility may take the examination at approximately 180 Computer Based Testing (CBT) sites offered through the testing network of Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) or.....

Via Web Based Testing (WBT) in on campus computer labs at NBSTSA recognized surgical technology programs. Nearly 340 NBSTSA recognized surgical technology programs participated in the WBT program in 2010. ABHES recognizes the CST examination for outcomes assessment in programmatic accreditation. Educators, please contact NBSTSA to set up WBT.

The NBSTSA does not offer paper/ pencil administration of the CST examination.

Candidate Preparation

The National Certifying Examination for surgical technologists covers the knowledge and skills common to competent entry-level surgical technologists in varied settings and/ or geographic locations. It is designed to test the skills and knowledge used on a routine basis in the profession and that make up the core body of knowledge for all surgical technologists. The CST examination is a national credential for professional practice and requires adequate preparation for the candidate to ultimately be successful. The following steps may assist the candidate in preparation for the examination.

- Read thoroughly the Examination Content Outline. All the areas listed may appear on the examination. Mark those areas with which you are not familiar or comfortable. Do some reading in these areas, or possibly attend a class or seminar. Note the number of questions dedicated to each content area.
- Read over the reference list (found in the candidate handbook). These references are the primary sources of information used when the examination questions are developed. Use these references to review and refresh your knowledge, particularly in the areas you identified as unfamiliar when you reviewed the Examination Content Outline.
- Study the sample questions (found in the candidate handbook). Try to answer them before looking at the answers. Review the examination content areas that you have difficulty with.
- Study the format of the sample questions. The test questions will follow this same format. All the questions are multiple-choice, and each question will have only one correct answer. Each question can be answered independently of all other questions in the test.
- Take the CST Practice Examination, available through the NBSTSA. This examination is a computer based simulation of the actual CST examination. Candidates will receive an analysis of individual questions and performance.
- There are a number of examination review publications available for the CST examination. NBSTSA does not endorse any specific review publication related to the examination process. Candidates may find review publications to be of assistance in preparation for the CST examination.

The NBSTSA encourages surgical technology educators to utilize designated recommended reference materials in the preparation of students for the credentialing process. Information on recommended reference materials for the CST examination, as well as the CST Practice Examination is available on the NBSTSA website at www.nbstsa.org. Additionally, examination review sessions for student candidates may be helpful.