



## Accreditation Statement

Surgical technologists graduate from surgical technology programs accredited through ARC/STSA, a collaborative effort of AST and ACS, by CAAHEP. CAAHEP is a recognized accreditation agency of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). In addition, surgical technology programs are located in educational institutions that are institutionally accredited by agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) or The Joint Commission. The ARC/STSA is also a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA).

### Credentials

Certification is conferred by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). Initial certification as a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) is based upon satisfactory performance on the national certifying examination following completion of an accredited program in surgical technology. CSTs maintain their certification by earning (30 credit hours of approved continuing education, including 4 defined as live) in a two-year period or by successfully retaking the certifying examination at the conclusion of the two-year period. The NBSTSA's CST certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation division of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), and is in compliance with NCCA's Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs. NCCA standards and accreditation services are referenced requirements in state and federal legislation pertaining to personnel certification. NOCA is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a developer of American National Standards. ANSI accreditation provides third-party validation that NOCA's standards development process ensures openness and due process.

- [Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting](#) (ARC/STSA)
- [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](#) (CAAHEP)

