

Northwest Mississippi Community College

Surgical Technology Program Admissions Rubric

Category	Criteria	Max Points
ACT Composite Score	16-18 = 1; 19-21 = 2; 22-24 = 3; 25-27 = 4; 28+ = 5	5
Cumulative College GPA	2.5-2.9 = 2; 3.0-3.49 = 3; 3.5-3.79 = 4; 3.8+ = 5	5
Healthcare Work / Volunteer Experience	None = 0; Shadowing ≤20 hrs = 1; 21+ hrs/part-time = 2; Full-time = 3	3
Relevant Coursework Completed	Medical Terminology = 1; A&P; I = 1; A&P; II = 1; Microbiology = 1	4
Highest Degree Earned	None = 0; Certificate = 1; Associate = 2; Bachelor's = 3; Master's+ = 4	4
Essay (500 words max)	See rubric on next page	10
Interview (optional or alternate)	See rubric on next page	10
TOTAL		≤ 50

The admissions process for the Surgical Technology Program is designed to identify students who are not only academically strong, but also demonstrate the professionalism, maturity, and motivation necessary to thrive in high-pressure surgical environments.

This holistic scoring system balances academic metrics with personal qualities to ensure fairness and to select well-rounded applicants.

Admissions Rubric (50 Points Total)

Essay Component (0–10 Points)

Applicants must submit a short essay (500 words or less) choosing ONE prompt:

1. Describe a time you received constructive criticism—how did you respond, and what did you learn?
2. What have you done to prepare for a career in surgical technology?
3. Give an example of a time you had to manage multiple priorities or perform under pressure.
4. Describe a time you helped someone through a difficult situation. What did you do, and how did it affect you?
5. What do you think will be the most challenging part of becoming a surgical technologist, and why are you still committed?

Criteria	Points
Clarity & Grammar	0–2
Motivation/Fit	0–3
Reflection & Self-Awareness	0–3
Professional Tone/Presentation	0–2

Interview Component (0–10 Points)

The interview assesses qualities not measurable on paper, including:

- Professionalism and maturity
- Communication skills
- Critical thinking and situational judgment
- Emotional readiness for high-pressure environments

Format

- Conducted by program faculty and/or clinical partners
- 15–20 minutes per applicant
- In-person preferred (virtual option by pre-approval) - Standardized scoring sheet to ensure fairness

Criteria	Points
Communication & Professionalism	0–2
Motivation & Understanding of the Field	0–3
Critical Thinking & Ethical Insight	0–3
Maturity & Emotional Readiness	0–2

Interview Scoring Rubric

Holistic Scoring Approach

- All applicants are scored using the 50-point rubric.
- Holistic traits (essay + interview, up to 20 points) allow applicants to demonstrate readiness beyond test scores.

Applicants are ranked by total score, with the top applicants accepted.

Quick Reference: Admissions at a Glance

- ✓ Total Points: 50
- ✓ ACT (up to 5 points)
- ✓ GPA (up to 5 points)
- ✓ Healthcare Experience (up to 3 points)
- ✓ Coursework (up to 4 points)
- ✓ Degree Earned (up to 4 points)
- ✓ Essay (up to 10 points)
- ✓ Interview (up to 10 points)

Successful applicants demonstrate academic readiness AND personal qualities like maturity, professionalism, and motivation to thrive in surgical technology.