

I graduated from a formal accredited associate degree program as a Surgical Technologist in 2003. I earned my certification as a Surgical Tech in August 2021. I am currently the Director of an Ambulatory Surgical center.

1. There are many different personality types and ways of learning.
2. Apprenticeship programs are already tried and true and have proven to be successful.
3. By advocating on behalf of our apprenticeship program, we are not stating that the other traditional avenues taken towards becoming a successful surgical tech aren't valid; we are simply creating another way to train caring and motivated individuals to join and succeed in the field.
4. Some people thrive in a textbook classroom setting. Others don't truly thrive until they are able to spend time with a mentor and shadow them. The apprenticeship program will allow that person to sharpen their skills and abilities and wisdom through real life encounters, yet still exist in the safe space of being mentored and educated by experience.
5. I liken my experience in going through an accredited program to learning how to drive. Learning to drive a car through reading a book is very different than the first day you actually get behind a wheel. I was very passionate about my classroom work and absolutely feel that I thrived in my surgical tech program. That being said, once I entered the operating room to do my externship, I still felt underprepared and completely blind to the ins-and-outs of the Operating Room. This was not a reflection on poor training or associated with a lack of applying myself to my classroom studies, but rather a reality that occurs during the adjustment period of learning to work in a high pressure environment.
6. You can teach a lot of people different jobs, but you cannot teach them to care. It is about hiring the right person. When considering surgical conscience and the philosophy of doing the right thing, it is about what lies within the person.
7. For me, backing this apprenticeship program feels natural and exciting, mostly so that there will be another path for others to succeed in this field. I love surgical technology. I love that every single day I learn something new. I love the constant and evolving aspects of medicine, new devices, and new procedures. I love that just as soon as I feel comfortable in the field, it changes. I love the challenges and rewards that come from this career. I don't think that anyone can honestly state that a person will not have the capacity to thrive in this field by omitting a traditional classroom setting. I am eager to continue to pour my heart and soul into mentoring others and helping others thrive. The community needs more scrub techs, and I am eager to think about the future, when there will be a larger pool of candidates to meet the ever increasing need. I would be honored to have the capacity to help make that happen.