



# Technical Education: Program Alignment

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# Program Alignment

## What is Program Alignment?

One of the strategic priorities of the postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) is to enhance technical education by aligning specific technical programs to the needs of business and industry in the state.

The Alignment Process has four primary objectives:

1. Allow business and industry to identify value-added exit points within programs,
2. Identify and support student acquisition of nationally recognized 3rd party industry credentials,
3. Identify a “few” common courses among the programs and
4. Decrease the variability in program length.

# Program Alignment

## What are the phases of Program Alignment?

### Phase 1 - Research and Industry Engagement

- Research current industry standards
- Establish a state business and industry committee and develop:
  - Employer needs
  - Define competencies and standards
  - Recommend appropriate industry-based credentials
  - Recommend appropriate accreditation

### Phase 2 – Faculty Engagement and Aligning Curriculum with Certifications

- Utilizing state business and industry recommendations, faculty develops the following:
  - Overall program title and description
  - General education and/or applied academic courses
  - Foundational occupational courses
  - Occupationally-specific courses
  - Advanced technical concentration courses
  - Courses applicable for each exit point

### Phase 3 – Approval of New Program Structure and Curriculum

- Newly aligned programs are reviewed by all groups and committees:
  - State business and Industry
  - State Faculty Committee
  - State wide Institutions
  - Technical Education Authority Program and Curriculum Committee
  - Technical Education Authority
  - Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC)
  - Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR)

# Program Alignment

## What are the phases of Program Alignment?

### Phase 4 – Implementation

- Colleges have approximately one year from the KBOR approval date to complete local activities to implement any program modifications:
  - Enter courses and program structure changes into Kansas Higher Education Database System (KHEDS)
  - Revisions made to institutional catalogs

### Phase 5 – Standards Revision Process

- Establish a program review cycle to address changes or updating of competencies identified by business and industry based, changes in program accreditation standards, or issues with the content and/or delivery of the aligned program identified by program faculty:
  - State faculty committee meets to determine any necessary revisions and/or issue and make recommendations for improvement
  - State faculty recommendations are forwarded to and reviewed by the state business and industry committee for approval
  - Revisions recommended by the state faculty committee, supported by the state business and industry committee are forwarded for approval by the Technical Education Authority Program and Curriculum Committee and Technical Education Authority

# Program Alignment

## What is aligned:

### Program Common Courses

- Common courses are common to all institutions and include the same content (subjects/breadth) and level of instruction (depth) as a course offered by another institution.
- Common courses have the same:
  - Course titles
  - Course credit hours
  - Course Description
  - Course Competencies

### Program Length

- Maximum credit hours
- When applicable, allow exit points:
  - 16-29 credit hours      Certificate A (Cert A)
  - 30-44 credit hours      Certificate B (Cert B)
  - 45-59 credit hours      Certificate C (Cert C)
  - 60-68 credit hours      Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

### Accrediting bodies and/or industry-based certifications

- Accreditation of programs when recommended/required by business and industry
- Industry-based certifications are industry recognized credentials that represent a declaration that an individual has met nationally recognized standards in a particular industry.

# Program Alignment

## What is not aligned?

1. Configuration of credit hours (lecture/lab) may vary to meet the needs of the individual colleges as long as the competencies are met and the credit value is the same
2. Delivery modes (i.e. on-line, face-to-face, 8 week sessions, 16 week sessions...)
3. Course order (as long as the college meets the established requirements within each certificate level)
4. Learning and assessment activities
5. Textbooks
6. Course numbers
7. Order of addressing competencies within a course
8. General education courses
9. Institutional flexibility ('Flex') courses

Surgical Technologist  
CST Credential

Certificate C  
Maximum of 53 Credit Hours

Surgical Technologist

- Certificate C Requirements
- 15 General Education (Minimum 15 Credit Hours)\*

A.A.S.  
Maximum of 68 Credit Hours  
for State Funding

### Required Courses within Program

<u>Common Courses</u>	<u>22 credits:</u>
<i>Intro to Surgical Technology</i>	4 credits
<i>Principles and Practices of ST</i>	5 credits
<i>Principles and Practices of ST Lab</i>	3 credits
<i>Surgical Procedures I</i>	4 credits
<i>Surgical Procedures II</i>	5 credits
<i>ST Certification Review</i>	1 credit

<u>Support Courses</u>	<u>(up to) 30 credits:</u>
<i>ST Clinical</i>	(up to) 13 credits
<i>Medical Terminology</i>	(up to) 3 credits
<i>Microbiology</i>	(up to) 5 credits
<i>Pharmacology</i>	(up to) 3 credits
<i>Anatomy and Physiology w/lab</i>	(at least) 5 credits
<i>CPR</i>	0-1 credit

*Course list sequence has no implication on course scheduling by colleges.*

*Institutions may add additional competencies based on local demand.*

### Notes

Specifics pertaining to the Surgical Technology program

1. Anatomy and Physiology w/ Lab is a 5-credit hour minimum.
2. Clinical experience is based on exposure to a specific number of surgical procedures, not hours at a clinical site, thus, the actual hours will vary depending on surgical caseloads.
3. There are 22 credit hours on the common course list.
4. There are (up to) 30 credit hours of support courses. This total includes the clinical experience and the supportive coursework needed as required by AST.
5. \* For colleges that choose to offer an AAS degree option.
6. All programs are CAAHEP accredited.
7. Graduates are eligible to sit for the CST examination.
8. Educational competencies align with AST requirements.
9. Students are strongly encouraged to obtain the Kansas WorkReady! Certificate-Silver Level before entering a surgical technologist program of study.



# Questions

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