Section I: Request

The Dixie State University (DSU) Surgical Technology program is nationally accredited through two accrediting bodies, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). The DSU Surgical Technology program receives no allocated program budget beyond payment of faculty salaries and benefits, and is dependent on course fees and program fees for all other expenses. Those fees are insufficient to operate an educational program of this kind. It is proposed that program fees and course fees be discontinued and program differential tuition be implemented. This tuition must cover part of the salary and benefits for one administrative position, in conjunction with other programs in the department. It covers capital equipment, maintenance, repair and replacement of current equipment, as well as all costs of instruction including clinical education. The program proposes a differential of $105.00 per credit hour be added to the standard DSU tuition.

Section II: Student and Market Demand for the Program

The DSU Surgical Technology program accepts 12 students per year. DSU is one of two USHE institutions which offers this program, but DSU has the only program serving residents of the southern part of the state. DSU surgical technology graduates consistently find employment, both within Southern Utah and across the country. Post-graduate surveys indicate that six months post-graduation, all graduates have found at least part-time employment in the field. Program graduates are highly sought after within the area, most notably by Intermountain Dixie Regional Medical Center, where the majority of the graduates are employed. The program consistently attracts applicants from all areas of Utah, but with an emphasis on Washington County. According to Bureau of Labor statistics, surgical technologists have an expected job growth of 12% nationwide from 2016-2026.

![Number of Qualified Applicants and Number Accepted](chart.png)
Section III: Impact of Differential Tuition Rates on Student Access and Retention

Differential tuition must be planned carefully in order for the DSU Surgical Technology program to remain competitive with other institutions. It must be rolled out and explained adequately in order for students to make informed decisions regarding which school to attend. Students will need to be taught how to compare differential tuition to other institutions’ base tuition and course or program fees. If this is not understood by students, a decrease in applications and enrollment in prerequisite courses may occur. The DSU Surgical Technology program is the only program in the state that has dual accreditation (CAAHEP and ARC/STSA), and is also the only program that awards an Associate of Applied Science degree upon program completion.

Section IV: Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs at Other Institutions*

DSU base tuition and fees are competitive with other USHE institutions, while dramatically lower in cost than proprietary institutions. With the proposed tuition differential, DSU remains competitive within the state, but due to the degree program our tuition is higher than the only other USHE institution, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC). Other institutions with this program are Stevens-Henager, at $22,788.00 tuition, Davis Technical College, at $6,870.00, and Mountainland Technical College, at $3,945.00. Each of these programs is a certificate program only, and does not have the national ARC/STSA accreditation. Program costs at the two competing programs in the state allow us to increase our tuition and remain competitive. SLCC has a total program cost of $4,461.00 and is also just a certificate program. The tuition and fees of the DSU Surgical Technology program are all inclusive. Each of these other institutions within the state add course fees and other expenses to the total cost listed.

![Surgical Technology Programs Cost Comparisons](image)

*Data retrieved online through institution websites; DSU data equals base tuition plus Surgical Tech program differential tuition.
Section V: Potential Earnings Capacity of Program Graduates

New graduates from the DSU Surgical Technology program usually start at approximately $19.00 per hour depending on location and setting. A full time, entry level, certified surgical technologist (CST) can expect between $40,000.00 and $45,000.00 per year. The starting salary in many other states is higher.

Section VI: Societal Importance of the Program

Surgical technologists work as members of a healthcare team alongside physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, and other healthcare workers. Before an operation, surgical technologists prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment. During an operation, surgical technologists pass instruments and supplies to surgeons and first assistants. They also hold retractors, hold internal organs in place during the procedure, or set up robotic surgical equipment. Once the operation is complete, surgical technologists may apply bandages and other dressings to the incision site. They may also help transfer patients to recovery rooms and restock operating rooms after a procedure. Over 70% of surgical technologists are employed in hospitals and may work or be on call during nights, weekends, and holidays. These technologists are relied upon, and play a great role, in maintaining a sterile environment and limiting post-operative infections in patients.

The DSU Surgical Technology program is one of the premier programs in the region. Students consistently score above national averages on required board examinations. We are the only program serving the community of Southern Utah. The program is relied upon each year to supply the medical communities in Washington County, as well as across the state, with qualified “scrub techs” to staff their operating rooms.