

**Excellence is  
in your hands.**



AST MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



**AST hands you the tools to help others and heighten patient care quality.**

### Join us

Become part of AST and you join a caring force that's more than 33,000 members strong. You gain exclusive access to cutting-edge education, extraordinary networking opportunities and unparalleled programs. And you tap into resources specifically designed to support your career growth.

AST is a powerful advocate for your profession. Your membership connects you with something greater and more rewarding—a community you simply won't find anywhere else, and a collective voice that deserves to be heard.

### AST affiliate organizations



**Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA)**

*Program Accreditation Organization*

ARC-STSA evaluates surgical technology and surgical assisting education programs according to standards mandated by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.



**THE NATIONAL BOARD  
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING**

**National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)**

*Credentialing Organization*

Founded to establish the guidelines for certification, NBSTSA is responsible for preparing, reviewing and validating the national certifying examination.

**Every decision. Every detail. Every day.**

**The O.R. demands a level of excellence all its own.**

**No one knows that better than the surgical technologist.**

As vital members of the surgical team, these highly skilled professionals work closely with surgeons, anesthesia providers and perioperative nurses to assure optimal experiences and superior outcomes for the patients in their care. *They have the first-hand knowledge of what's needed and what's next.* And their contribution—before, during and after surgery—heightens quality while controlling cost.

Surgical technology emerged as a discipline during World War II, when the critical need for well-trained O.R. support outpaced the supply of medical personnel. The growth of the profession and the recognition of its value led to the founding of the Association of Operating Room Technicians (AORT) in 1969. Nine years later, the organization officially became the Association of Surgical Technologists, Inc.

AST is now the only professional organization representing the interests of more than 80,000 surgical technologists and surgical assistants across the United States. Its commitment to quality education, certified proficiency, member advocacy and practitioner development is well evidenced at the national and state level.

▶ For more information, visit [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

## Your AST membership pays for itself.

Being connected to more than 80,000 professionals committed to promoting quality patient care is reason enough to join AST. But belonging delivers so much more.

From the respect of other medical-surgical professionals to real-world skill enhancement, the value is clear. And AST membership dues have held steady for the past decade.

### What can you expect as an AST member?

#### A legislative voice

Our legislative lobbying/monitoring helps preserve your right to practice and assures a united voice at both state and national levels. As a member, you receive updates on legislative changes and other public policy issues affecting health care and your profession.

#### State assembly participation

When you join AST, you automatically become a member of the state assembly of your choice and a portion of your membership supports that state. You can:

- ▲ Earn continuing education credits offered in your local community through state assembly workshops.
- ▲ Vote for your state representatives.
- ▲ Join the dynamic Grassroots Network advocating for surgical technologist certification and other patient safety initiatives.

#### Members-only educational opportunities

Now, you can expand your professional knowledge and status conveniently and cost-effectively, through:

- ▲ Relevant, online continuing education (CE) courses provided through AST's Online Continuing Education Resource Center. This highly popular members-only service can save you significant time and speed your CE progress.
- ▲ Substantial discounts on CE opportunities, including credit package deals you can apply toward the renewal of your credentials.

- ▲ Seamless, automatic transfer of CE credits to the NBSTSA
- ▲ Career-focused AST Recommended Standards of Practice
- ▲ Access to cutting-edge research
- ▲ Information concerning legislative developments affecting your profession
- ▲ Waiver of the \$400 nonmember processing fee requirement
- ▲ Automatic recording of AST CE credits completed online
- ▲ Plus opportunities to promote your profession. Celebrate the annual Surgical Technologist Week in September with AST.

#### Communications that connect

Stay professionally current with these AST resources:

- ▲ Complimentary monthly subscription to *The Surgical Technologist* journal
- ▲ Networking and relationship building with fellow practitioners on Facebook and AST Discussion Board.
- ▲ The ability to keep track of your membership and CE credits with your personal login information on our website at [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)
- ▲ Monthly Enews updates delivered directly to your email
- ▲ Informative AST Enewsletters and news alerts

#### Professional growth opportunities

Fuel your advancement with access to essential development resources, including

- ▲ Tools for identifying and developing career options
- ▲ AST's Recommended Clinical Ladder for the Surgical Technologist
- ▲ Volunteering/Networking—an excellent way to meet new people, share your expertise and make a difference locally or globally!
- ▲ Professional leadership opportunities for qualifying members to serve on the AST Board of Directors, through your state assembly or running for national office

- ▲ AST national conferences, forums, hands-on educational workshops, exhibits, Facebook, and Discussion Board
- ▲ Scholarship opportunities for practitioners

### AST Career Center

*Free to members!* For students, professionals, and employers, there's no better career connection than the AST Career Center.

- ▲ Post your resume. Make your skills and expertise known to potential employers.
- ▲ Job search online. Explore the possibilities for that perfect position.

### Discounts

- ▲ Save on AST forums, hands-on educational sessions and instructors workshops
- ▲ Receive registration discounts for AST's national conference and other events
- ▲ Save on educational products
- ▲ Take part in AST's professional liability plan
- ▲ Enjoy services/savings through affinity program partners, including professional liability, auto, home and renter insurance; Capital One Rewards Card; T-Mobile; Liberty Mutual Insurance; CM&F Professional Liability Insurance, and Dell Computers



## Specifically for students:

### The Association of Surgical Technologists Student Association (ASTSA)

Start benefiting from AST while you're still a student by joining AST, and automatically you will become a member of our student-focused organization, ASTSA. Your membership means you'll:

- ▲ Save \$100 on the national certifying exam
- ▲ Gain professional insights with free subscriptions to the quarterly ASTSA newsletter and the monthly journal *The Surgical Technologist*
- ▲ Qualify for discounts on educational products, including the first-time certification package offer of membership, study guide and exam
- ▲ Socialize with peers on Facebook or discuss issues on the AST Discussion Board
- ▲ Access benefits for qualifying students who excel in their studies
- ▲ Apply for financial assistance from the Foundation of Surgical Technology and other resources
- ▲ Save substantially on the annual AST conference registration—only \$99
- ▲ Become eligible to hold office and serve as a national ASTSA officer

If you have any questions or concerns related to your AST membership, please contact

### AST Member Services

memserv@ast.org or 800.637.7433, option 3.  
Business hours: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. MDT.  
We are here to help you!

▶ For more information, visit [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

## The AST Mission

To enhance the profession to ensure quality patient care

AST is right there with you in the real world. What we offer our 33,000+ members is as real as it gets:

- ▲ Exclusive access to cutting-edge education, tools and technology
- ▲ Extraordinary networking opportunities
- ▲ Unparalleled programs, resources and services to help build your career
- ▲ Powerful advocacy for your profession
- ▲ And a sense of community you simply won't find anywhere else.

▶ For more information, visit [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)



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