

Laboratory Sufficiency Policy for Surgical Technology Programs

Relevant Standard: Standard III. Resources A. Type and Amount

Purpose

The ARC/STSA Laboratory Ratio Policy establishes the required 10:1 student/instructor ratio for laboratory instruction in CAAHEP accredited surgical technology programs.

Rationale

Qualified laboratory instructional staff must be sufficient in numbers, based on maximum enrollment capacity and laboratory section capacity to conduct the laboratory experience at no greater than a 10:1 student/teacher ratio. The ARC/STSA has established the 10:1 student/teacher ratio to assure sufficient student exposure to and experience with required laboratory competencies, and to allow for appropriate skill assessment and frequency of student evaluation by laboratory instructional staff. (See Standard III.B.3.b. for instructor qualification requirements.)

The program must also demonstrate that it has sufficient equipment, instrumentation, supplies, and physical laboratory space to permit all students assigned to the laboratory experience to be actively and safely engaged in the learning process. Resources must support the methodology included in the program's master curriculum. Opportunities for remediation of laboratory skills must be available to students.