NCCT
NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPETENCY TESTING

A job analysis was performed in 2022 for the National Center of Competency Testing's (NCCT) Tech in Surgery-Certified (TS-C) examination. The purpose of the job analysis is to describe the job activities of the surgical technologist in sufficient detail to provide a basis for the development of a professional, job related certification examination.

The National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) facilitated the selection of a Job Analysis Committee (JAC) to conduct the activities necessary to identify the responsibilities of surgical technologists, and to develop the detailed test plan. The diversity of this group was reflective of the surgical technologist's job. All JAC members demonstrated expertise in the duties and activities associated with this profession.

The study involved the development of a job analysis survey, distribution of the survey to current surgical technologists, and an analysis of the responses. The detailed test plan for the Tech in Surgery-Certified was developed on the basis of these data. The JAC was responsible for the following six tasks:

1. Developing a definition of a surgical technologist
2. Identifying tasks for the survey instrument
3. Determining the appropriate rating scales
4. Determining the relevant demographic questions
5. Pilot testing the survey instrument
6. Finalizing the detailed test plan based on the survey data

The survey was sent to 8,733 individuals who maintain or have maintained the TS -C credential in the past five years. Of these, 725 (8.3%) individuals submitted usable responses. Of those who responded, 98.9% indicated that the survey instrument either adequately or completely addressed the important elements of a surgical technologist's job.

After the survey data were analyzed, the results were reviewed with the JAC and decision rules were established. These rules were used to determine which tasks and knowledge were appropriate for assessment, and therefore, inclusion in the final detailed test plan. Application of the decision rules resulted in the retention of all of tasks and all of the knowledge statements.

The JAC determined that each multiple-choice test will be comprised of 150 scored items and 25 unscored, pretest items. Of those 150 scored items, 138 (92%) will be 4-option multiple-choice items and 12 (8%) will be alternative items (e.g., multi-select, drag-and-drop, hotspot). The resulting detailed test plan will be used as the basis for examination development until the next job analysis. NCCT's Board of Testing reviewed the new detailed test plan on March 1st, 2023 and unanimously approved of its use for future test forms.