

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Surgical Technology Program
Advisory Board Minutes
04/18/2013

Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Teresa Jansen, director of the surgical technology program. Introductions were given of those present: Teya Jacoby (current student), Jennifer Pick (past student), Deb Vander Kooi (community member, President), Jackie Otkin (Director of Allied Health, school administrator), Lila Bauer (Public member), Pat Evans CST (practicing CST, Vice-President), Dr. Norma Walks (surgeon), Ellie Berg CST (ST Program faculty), Karla Carstensen RN (Employer-Avera Dell Rapids Hospital) Absent: Ryan Tjeerdsma (ST Employer), Tom Rolfs (ST Employer), Lila DeWitt (secretary), Sue Borman RN (Employer Pipestone County Medical Center), Lila De Witt (secretary).

Welcome was given to Dr. Norma Walks general surgeon from Luverne. She is replacing Dr. David Strand on the advisory committee as our surgeon representative.

Enrollment

Cohort 2012-2013 began with 16 students in the program, of that number currently 10 students remain in the program and will be going into the clinical phase. Initially the program is able to accept 24 students and we are slowly increasing in numbers with the hope of being at capacity in the near future.

Program Goals and Outcomes

Review was given on the program goal “To prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the Cognitive (knowledge), Psychomotor (skills) and Affective (behavior) learning domains.” Teresa reviewed each of these domains and how the program meets this goal. She also explained the On-Going Program Assessment Process.

Outcome Indicators

Retention Rates: Teresa distributed a copy of the annual report trends for the last 4 reporting years. Analysis shows that the last 2 years we have not met the goal of 70% retention. Teresa also explained that with the current enrollment and retention so far this academic year we are sitting at 56%. This indicates a 3rd year with below 70% retention. Teresa discussed data she has collected over the last 3 years and this academic year as to why students do not complete. Graphs indicate that 70% of students leave due to personal issues, 10% background issues, 20% academic. In analyzing the data, input was given on doing background checks prior to entry. Discussion was on the fact that we are charged and clinical sites like them 30 days prior to the clinical phase which starts in March. Recommendation of committee members was to initiate studies on all students prior to admission with the cost being incurred by the student. Clinical background checks will be paid by the college for the ones that are done prior to clinicals. (Implement change) and evaluate if this lowers that 20%. Academic – Teresa informed

the board she has set up weekly tutoring sessions to assist students with academic success. She noted that academically on the trends that it has gone down. (No further change at this time). The highest retention issue was personal; Teresa explained various reasons such as divorce, children, etc. She said it is difficult to retain students that choose to leave for personal reasons. The committee discussed what was in place for screening, one being each student meets with Teresa prior to admission and also on orientation day and she goes through each part of the program and the commitment required. This continues to be an issue regardless of these new aspects.

Recommendation was to expand the advising during the course of the semester to help identify students who perhaps need additional support and direct them to services that could benefit them such as child care assistance, vouchers etc. (Implement change) Include additional advising time, evaluate if this assists with retaining students that do leave for reasons other than academics. The board also discussed that at times students will leave regardless of circumstances and it is difficult to maintain 70% if students leave for issues that are not in the control of the program. Trends will be continually assessed and changes will be made based on future outcomes.

Employer Satisfaction Surveys

Trending indicates satisfaction on the employer surveys remain at 100% on the 5 point scale with all areas on the Employer survey above 3 with most at 4-5. This exceeds requirement of 85%. Distribution of surveys shows that the return rate is above the 50% requirement with averages of 60% returned. Teresa explained it is difficult to get the employers to send them back and she is continually calling, emailing and resending. Committee discussed scanning and emailing them after the initial one is mailed and follow-up weekly. (Implement change) Include mailing initial and weekly emails with scanned copy to increase the number of returned surveys. Determine to see if this increases responses. Initial paper copy is mailed in May.

Graduate Placement

Graduate placement continues to exceed the 80% standard requirement. Trending Graphs indicate placement ranges from 83-85%. Teresa indicated that last year all students were placed except 1. Committee had no suggestions for change, they discussed with the economic trends that placement has been good.

Certification Exam Results

Students continue to do the Web based testing here at the college for their certification exam. Participation is at 100% for the last 3 years, it is a requirement all students participate. Trending graphs indicate an average of 80% or above pass ratio. Standard is 70% and the national average is around 64%. Discussion was on the fact that with lower numbers of students and actually only 1-2 students per year that do not pass the committee felt that the pass ratio was well above the average. Recommendation was to continue to assess the trending.

Graduate Satisfaction

Graduate satisfaction surveys are sent in late Feb, 6 months post-graduation. Return ratio averages between 80 to up to 100% which exceeds 50% standard requirement.

Satisfaction rates of are consistently 100% for the last 4 reporting years. This exceeds the 85% standard requirement. Committee discussed that trending indicates students are happy with the program and that with the employer surveys indicate that the goals are being achieved.

Accreditation

Teresa explained that the program is up for accreditation, the program was initially accredited until May 2014. She has submitted a PRR report and distributed copies of the initial findings and discussed each area and how the program responded. Program is scheduled for review at the May 17th meeting of CAAHEP and we will know if the program is granted continued accreditation for up to 10 years. Committee discussed the areas on the report and felt the responses were appropriate and agreed with the direction that was taken to resolve the issues identified.

Marketing and Recruitment

Katie was unavailable to attend the meeting to give an update on recent marketing and recruitment. Teresa briefly discussed what she knew as far as activities such as having area college visits, radio ads and advertisement.

Clinical site availability

Clinical sites remain the same with the addition of Sanford Aberdeen. Teresa stated she had one student from that area that requested to go there for the summer. This site falls under the Sanford umbrella so this addition would expand sites up into Northern South Dakota that could potentially be an area to market. Teresa distributed the new 6th edition case requirement and discussion was on the facilities we have and if they will be able to meet the outlined requirements. At present Teresa feels the current sites should be able to accommodate the specialized areas. This will be the first year with the new requirements and she will report back at the next meeting to see if any changes need to be made at that time. No changes recommended at this time.

Equipment and Supplies

Teresa reported that through the technology budget she purchased a pneumatic tourniquet and 2 refurbished mayo stands. Through her budget she is able to maintain the supplies needed for lab and has purchased a few new general instruments to go in the large sets. Last year she was awarded a Perkins Grant where a refurbished electric OR table was purchased so that has help significantly with positioning simulation. Teresa reviewed the 5 year budget requests and at present the committee offered no further recommendations to what was listed.

Employment Opportunities

Currently there are openings in Sioux Falls, Montevideo, and Worthington. These are all areas that will have students this summer. In analyzing areas within the state the job market for Surgical Technologists remains strong.

Curriculum update

Teresa gave a review of the new 6th edition curriculum changes, she expressed the main change was within the clinical portion. She had to redo all syllabi and test to make sure all areas were covered and included in the curriculum.

Associates Degree

The associate's degree was approved at the last advisory meeting and members were questioning the status. At present Teresa explained she is working with administration on the sequencing of the program and how this will be implemented. Committee members expressed that it would be a benefit to students in the long run to have another avenue besides the compacted 53 credit 15month program. Teresa will continue to work with administration and will update the committee on the status of the implementation.

Other:

Committee members had no further questions or concerns and the meeting was adjourned.