



Adopted HOD 2001  
Updated BOD January 2013

**Bachelor's Degree as the Preferred Model for Entry-level  
Surgical First Assistant Education Resolution**

*Whereas*, Surgical Technologists are allied health professionals who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel caring for the surgical patient;

*Whereas*, Surgical Technologists have primary responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of the sterile field around the patient, being constantly vigilant that proper technique is followed;

*Whereas*, A profession's educational base is the cornerstone of its continued growth and development;

*Whereas*, Surgical Technologists in the advanced role of assistant are educated specifically to work in the operative environment and possess the knowledge and skills to assist the surgeon and other team members in assuring the best surgical outcome;

*Whereas*, Surgical Technologists are skilled professionals who must be prepared with the advanced level of knowledge and techniques necessary to function in the role of assistant as valuable and integral members of the surgical team for the benefit of surgical patients and the public; and

*Whereas*, to remain on par with the level of preparation of other assistive professionals, surgical technology must maintain an equivalent educational standard;

*Whereas*, The Association of Surgical Technologists, Inc., was officially incorporated as a nonprofit educational association in 1969 to ensure that surgical technologists are educationally prepared to deliver quality patient care, which is accomplished through accredited surgical technology programs, national certification, and continuing education;

***Therefore, be it Resolved***, that the Board of Directors moves that the House of Delegates recommends a Bachelor's Degree in a related discipline be the preferred educational model for surgical first assistants."