

NBSTSA Guide for CSTs with Currency Establishing CSFA Examination Eligibility



Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) Examination (For CSTs with Currency)

PRE-AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS (BEFORE APPLYING):

1. Candidates must be a current Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) with the NBSTSA when starting the pre-authorization process for surgical first assisting experience.
2. Candidates must submit the following documentation for review:
 - A completed Pre-Authorization for Clinical Experience Form (signed by the Director of Surgery) from each sponsoring facility PRIOR to gaining clinical experience. Only procedures acquired during the authorization period at the designated facilities will count toward CSFA examination eligibility criteria.
 - Evidence of malpractice coverage
3. Once pre-authorization is approved, candidates must perform a minimum of 200 clinical cases in the role of a surgical first assistant during the period of facility sponsorship and under direct supervision of designated Surgeons. Clinical Case Experience must include:
 - 75 General Surgery
 - 75 Designated Specialty (only one specialty)
 - 50 Distributed Specialty (cannot be general surgery or first designated specialty)

*Candidates have two years maximum to complete clinicals once pre-authorization is approved. Suggested specialties include, but are not limited to Cardiovascular, ENT, Eye, Neurosurgery, OB/GYN, Oral/Maxillofacial, Orthopedics, Pediatric, Peripheral Vascular, Plastic, Procurement/Transplant, Thoracic and Trauma.
4. At the conclusion of the candidate's clinical experience an examination application should be submitted to the NBSTSA with the following associated documentation:
 - CSFA Examination Application Examination Fees
 - Clinical Experience Logs
 - Experience Verification Form (from each facility where experience was earned)
5. The NBSTSA will conduct an audit with the sponsoring facilities to ensure candidate experience was earned during sponsorship as indicated on the pre-authorization forms.

Failure to meet the aforementioned qualifications will result in denial of a candidate's eligibility.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ELIGIBILITY:

The NBSTSA retains the sole authority to establish eligibility requirements and make all final decisions regarding eligibility; therefore, it is mandatory that a completed NBSTSA CSFA Pre-Authorization form is submitted to the NBSTSA for review. The NBSTSA reserves the right to cancel and void the processing of any pre-authorization or examination application which is incomplete.

Candidates will be notified **BY MAIL AND/OR EMAIL** of decisions concerning eligibility.