

# 2026 NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards



THE NATIONAL BOARD  
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING



## **2026 NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards**

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) is committed to demonstrating professional competence of surgical technologists and surgical first assistants through examination, conferring of certification, and ongoing recognition through continuing education.

NBSTSA has a long history of recognizing educational excellence in surgical technology through general or named/dedicated scholarship awards both independently and in collaboration with partner organizations. In 2025 NBSTSA created its Student Academic Merit Award.

NBSTSA will award several scholarships based on demonstrated dedication to education, commitment to quality surgical patient care, and enhancing public safety.

NBSTSA's legacy award honors Dalton Gay, a student and athlete from North Carolina, who excelled in his academic and athletic pursuits and was deeply dedicated to public service. NBSTSA is honoring Dalton's legacy with an award for students demonstrating that same passion and dedication.

Recipients will be notified of their awards via email in May 2026.

### **Important Information**

Application Deadline: 5:00 PM MT on Friday, March 27, 2026

Submission Method: Applications must be submitted to NBSTSA via email.

### **Eligibility**

- Current student in a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited school/program at time of application submission.
- Completion of one semester of surgical technology or surgical first assisting education and working toward CST® or CSFA® certification.

### **Required Documents Before Starting Application**

- Transcript (from your school) verifying cumulative GPA
- Submission of 5 essays
- 1 letter of recommendation
- List of achievements
- Personal resume

Incomplete applications will not be considered. The application must be filled out, signed and accompanied by all required supporting documentation.

## NBSTSA STUDENT ACADEMIC MERIT AWARD APPLICATION

Applications must be received by close of business on **March 27th, 2026.**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Media Handle(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

#### **5 Essays (250-word limit each):**

##### **1. Personal Essay**

Explain why you are pursuing a career in surgical technology, your motivation for entering the field, any financial or personal challenges you have overcome, and how this scholarship will support your educational and career goals. *(250-word limit)*

##### **2. Clinical Experience**

Provide detailed information about your clinical experience, including specific rotations, procedures, or meaningful/challenging cases. Describe what you learned and how these experiences supported your development.

If you have not yet begun clinicals, outline your expectations for the experience, including the types of impactful cases you hope to encounter and challenges you anticipate. *(250-word limit)*

##### **3. Career Goals**

Describe your long-term career goals in surgical technology and how you plan to contribute to the profession. *(250-word limit)*

##### **4. Leadership Roles**

Describe any leadership positions you've held, such as involvement in student organizations, group projects, or community initiatives. *(250-word limit)*

##### **5. Volunteer Work / Community Service**

Share details about volunteer work or community service you've participated in, especially those related to healthcare or patient care. *(250-word limit)*

### Letter of Recommendation

One letter from a healthcare professional, employer, or mentor attesting to your abilities and commitment.

### Academic Achievements & Involvement

List any academic honors, awards, distinctions, conferences, workshops, or professional meetings attended.

### Additional Information Required

- A copy of your transcript must be obtained from your school website or Academics office, clearly showing the school, all courses/grades, and overall grade point average (GPA).
- A current resume or CV highlighting your academic, clinical, and extracurricular experiences.

I certify that I have completed this application truthfully and that I am the sole author of all essays submitted. I authorize release of information for eligibility review and waive my rights to review submitted materials.

If awarded, I consent to the release of biographical information and a photograph for NBSTSA publications.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed application and all required documents to: [meritawards@nbstsa.org](mailto:meritawards@nbstsa.org)

All NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Award recipients will be notified of the award via email in May 2026.

Recipient names will be posted on the NBSTSA's web page online at [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org)