Jefferson College offers new surgical technologist program

When the surgeon says "scalpel," the assistant standing nearby must know precisely what kind of instrument to pass -- having already ensured it is properly sterilized and that other operating room equipment is in good order.

To that end, the Jefferson College of Health Sciences is using two recently-renovated operating rooms on its Roanoke campus to train surgical technologists.

It's part of a new program that offers an associate of applied science in surgical technology. Nine students are enrolled in the inaugural class, which began in January.

Over the next 16 months, they will be trained in classrooms and in two mock operating rooms that have been renovated at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital, where the college is based.

The surgical technologist's duties include sterilizing surgical instruments, preparing and assembling equipment, passing instruments to the surgeon and assisting in other ways with the procedure.

When the college announced the new program last fall, it said the goal was to "prepare students to become an integral part of the team providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings."

More information on the classes is available here.