

# 2025 NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards



THE NATIONAL BOARD  
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING



**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's goals include dedication to and support of its credential holders, as well as individuals entering or working in the professions of surgical technology or surgical first assisting.

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 continues its commitment to supporting students in surgical technology and surgical first assisting as they prepare to launch their professional careers.

NBSTSA will award one \$3000 legacy award, one \$2000 award, and fifteen \$1000 awards 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. Dalton had a passion for helping to improve the lives of those less fortunate than himself both in his community and internationally. Dalton's young life was cut short due to illness at age 17; however, his contributions and impact on the lives he touched with his generosity continues. NBSTSA is honoring Dalton's legacy with an award to students who demonstrate that same passion and dedication to education and service.

Recipients will be notified of their awards via email in May 2025.

### **Important Information**

**Application Deadline:** 5pm MT on Tuesday April 15, 2025

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

### **Eligibility:**

1. Current student in a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited school/program at time of application submission.
2. Completion of 1 semester or year of surgical technology or surgical first assisting education

### ***Before Starting the Application All the Following Documents Are Required***

1. A transcript (from your school) verifying your cumulative GPA
2. Submission of 5 essays
3. 2 letters of recommendation
4. Lists of achievements
5. 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 April 15, 2025**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

### **5 Essays (limited to 250 words for each):**

- 1. Personal Essay:** Why you are pursuing a career in surgical technology, your motivation for entering the field, financial or other unique challenges you have overcome up to this point, and how this scholarship will help you achieve your educational and career goals. **(250-word limit)**
- 2. Clinical Experience:** Provide details of your clinical experience, including specific rotations or cases that have been particularly meaningful or challenging. **(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 (e.g., student organizations, class projects, community initiatives). **(250-word limit)**
- 5. Volunteer Work/Community Service:** Share details of any volunteer work or community service you've been involved in, particularly as related to healthcare or surgical services. **(250-word limit)**

### **2 Letters of Recommendations:**

**#1:** From a faculty member or clinical instructor supporting your application.

**#2:** From a healthcare professional, employer, or mentor attesting to your abilities and commitment to the profession.

**Academic Achievements and Involvement:**

List any academic honors, awards, or distinctions you have received.

List of Professional Conferences, Workshops, or Meetings Attended: State Assembly, HOSA, AST Honor Society, etc. if applicable

**Additional information:**

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 and that it is true, correct. I further certify that I am the sole author of the essays submitted for consideration. I hereby authorize the release of all information contained in this application packet, as may be required to determine my eligibility for an academic merit award. I hereby waive my rights to review all documents pertaining to my scholarship application once submitted for consideration. If the award is granted, I consent to the release of biographical information and a photograph for publications related to announcements of the NBSTSA Student Academic Merit Awards.

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

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

**ATTACH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION FORM AND  
EMAIL IT 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 2025. Recipient names will be posted on the NBSTSA’s web page online at [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org).