

The EVMS SA program does not accept applications from practicing/retired physicians due to the fact that there are other pathways for these individuals to enter the surgical assistant profession.

## The National Surgical Assistant Association

The National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) defines a surgical assistant as a trained medical professional who assists the surgeon in performing surgical procedures. This professional has an understanding of human anatomy at the advanced level; possesses surgical skills such as suturing and tying; understands how to properly use surgical instruments; recognizes how to position patients; and possesses the skills and training to evaluate the surgical patient to assure the best possible surgical outcome.

For more information about the National Surgical Assistant Association visit [www.nsaa.net](http://www.nsaa.net).

Visit our website for information on the following:

- Application Deadlines
- Tuition and Fees
- Curricula
- Program Technical Standards
- Financial Aid

<http://www.evms.edu/evms-school-of-health-professions/surgical-assistant.html>

## Contact Information

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[www.evms.edu/msa](http://www.evms.edu/msa)



# MASTER OF Surgical Assisting PROGRAM

**EVMS**  
Eastern Virginia Medical School

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## Surgical Assistant Program

EVMS, in association with area hospitals, offers a Master of Surgical Assisting to prepare candidates for a career assisting surgeons in the performance of surgical procedures in the specialized area of surgical assisting.

Surgical assistants aid the surgeon in performing surgical procedures, positioning patients for surgery, and draping and preparing the operative site. During the procedure, the surgical assistant retracts and exposes the operative field, securing the best possible surgical site exposure for the operative procedure. The skilled surgical assistant anticipates the moves and needs of the surgeon.

Our mission is to train competent surgical assistants in a dynamic academic environment and to nurture future educators and leaders of the profession.

## Educational Format

Our 22-month residential program, which begins each August, consists of 10 months of didactic courses and 12 months of clinical training. Graduates receive a master's in surgical assisting upon completion and are required to sit for the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants Certification Exam. Our graduates achieve scores above the national average on the certification exam and are employed as certified surgical assistants throughout the country.



## Admission Requirements

Applicants are required to have completed courses in anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry and microbiology as shown in Table 1. Prior medical and/or operating room experience is highly desired; however, it is not a prerequisite. Applicants must possess a problem-solving, self-directed, learning approach to education. Other admission criteria include:

- United States citizenship or proof of permanent U.S. residence.
- Candidates are expected to be in good health to withstand the rigors of the program and to strictly adhere to all rules and regulations of EVMS, as well as those of the clinical facilities where they will receive training.

## Prerequisite Courses

All prerequisites must be completed within the past 10 years with a B- or better for acceptance.

TABLE 1.	
Prerequisite Courses	Credit Hours
Anatomy and Physiology with lab (human recommended)	6-8
General Biology with lab	3
General or Intro Chemistry with lab	3
Microbiology with lab	3

## Visit our web site for more information:

<http://www.evms.edu/evms-school-of-health-professions/surgical-assistant.html>

## Master of Surgical Assisting

### All candidates must:

- Have at least a baccalaureate degree (in any area of study) and a qualifying grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better
- Have completed all of the prerequisite courses listed in Table 1 (Waivers may be granted based on experience or other factors)
- Have achieved a grade of B- or better in each of the prerequisite courses

## Application Procedure

### All candidates must submit the following:

- Completed online application form
- Nonrefundable \$60 application fee
- Three recommendations
- Official transcripts of all coursework
- Personal statement

The Admissions Committee reviews all applications and the Program Director extends invitations of admission to successful applicants. Candidates who accept must submit a \$300 deposit to reserve their position in the program which is applied to their first semester tuition.

