

ONE-STEP-EXPLORATION or  
*(CLOSE)*

# CATEGORY: MEDICINE

Career Field: **Surgical Technician**

Learn our detailed step-by-step "10 P" Method to exploring which fields of Medicine have the best potential to fulfill you emotionally, socially and financially!

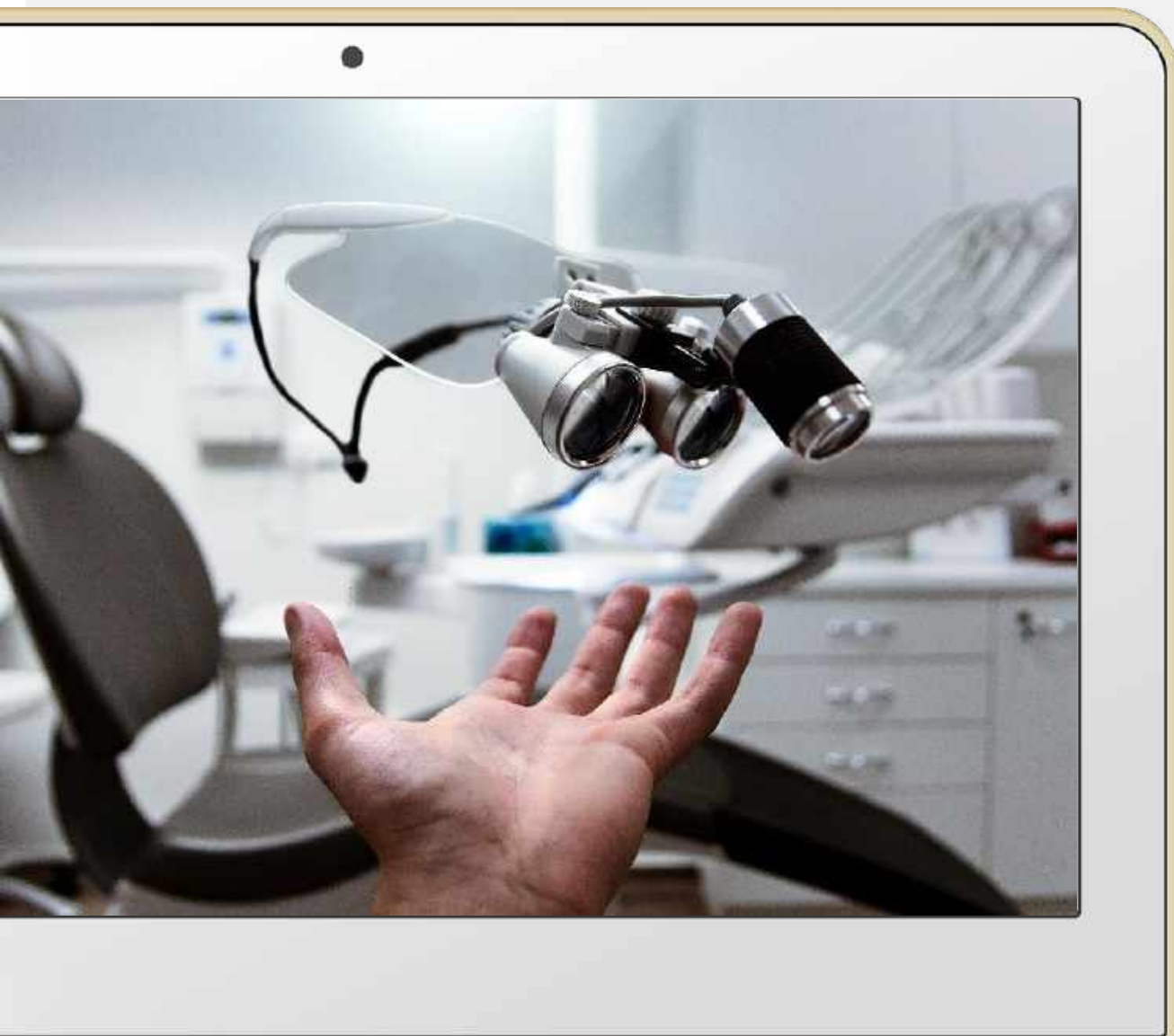


- The world of Medicine is exciting, exploding with new technology and new job opportunities. Medicine is a diverse multi-faceted career field with tons of opportunities to explore. However, some career fields can be VERY expensive to obtain and the **P**RE-REQUISITE and **P**ROGRAMS can be extensive but the **P**AYBACK may be worth it. So let's discover this new world together.
- There are several degree paths available in the Medical field. Today we will discuss the Surgical Technician track.
- Let's get into our "**10 P**s." We will save the **P**AY and the **P**AYBACK for last so we can discuss our **CLiFS#**.



## **CATEGORY:** Medicine

**CAREER FIELD:** Surgical Technician

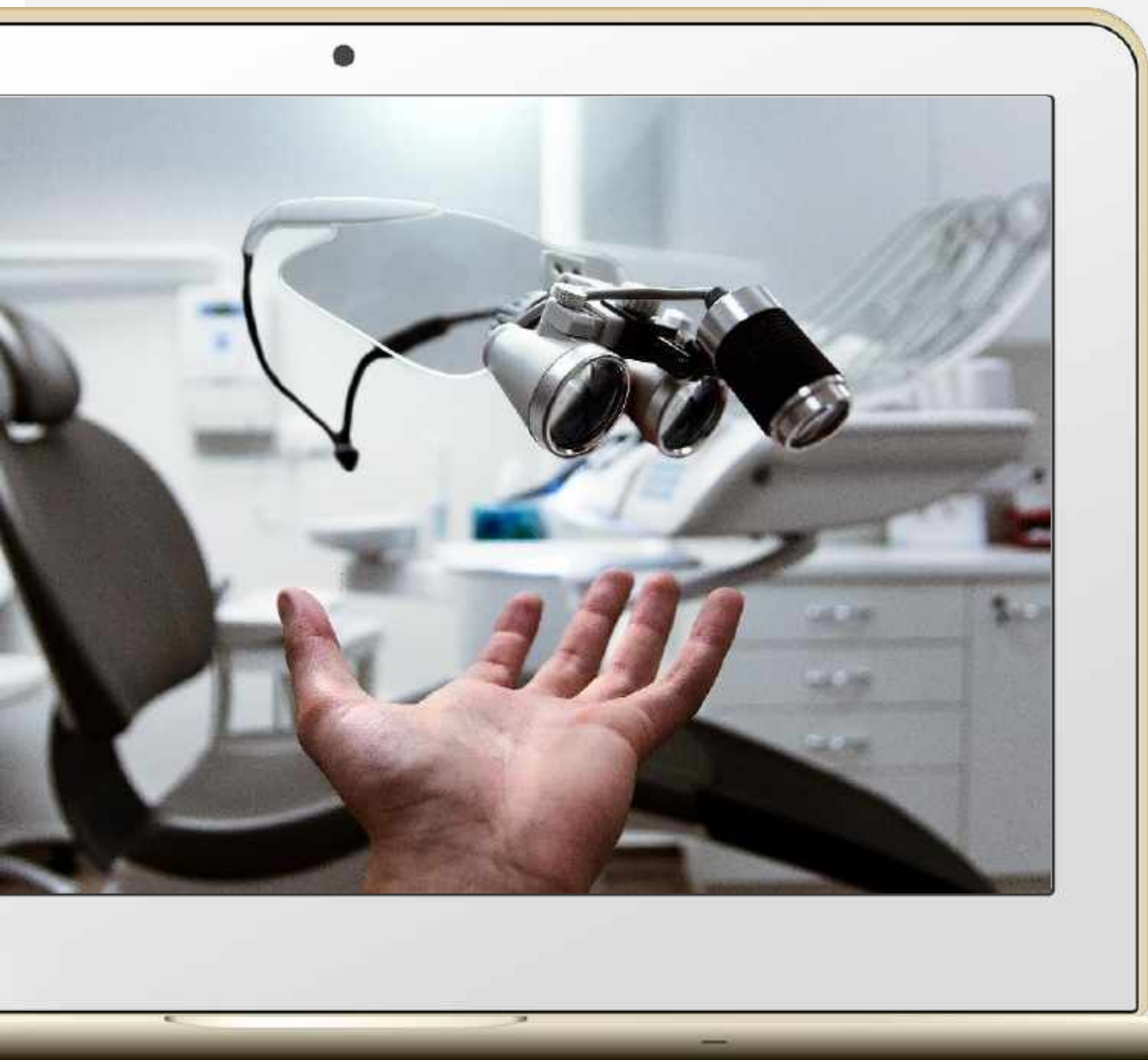


# **P**OSITION

## ***Surgical Technician***

**Surgical** technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist with operations, and help to transport patients to the operating room. They prepare operating rooms for numerous types of cases, arrange equipment, and help the doctors during surgeries with all the equipment needed to complete the case. Surgical Technician are an integral part of the healthcare system. They encompass the promotion of health, prevention of illness and care of physically ill, mentally ill and disabled people of all ages in healthcare and other community settings in "responses to actual or potential health problems" (ANA, 1980, P.9).





# POSITION

- The typical day for a surgical technician can be long, crazy, exhausting, exhilarating and fulfilling.
- Visit the link below for a typical “day-in-the-life-of” a Surgical Technician.
- Surgical Technicians work full time. Some technicians work at the hospital and on call during nights, weekends and holidays. Some shifts lasting more than 8 hours.
- Surgical Technicians work alongside surgeons and nurses. In most settings, they spend much of the workday on their feet.

<http://www.surgicaltechcareers.com/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-surgical-tech/>

**Dental Assistants  
Licensed Practical and Vocational  
Nurses**

**Medical Assistants**

**Medical and Clinical Laboratory  
Technologists and Technicians**

# **P**OSSIBILITIES



- Once you're in the career, where else can you go?
- How far can you grow vertically?
- Will this career provide a bridge to another career path?
- Will there be opportunities to volunteer your services (*perhaps even internationally*)?



# **P**RE-REQUISITES

- ✓ Do you need special training or a certificate?
- ✓ Do you need to go to college?
- ✓ Will you need a Masters or Doctorate Degree?
- ✓ How long will it take to complete all the training?

**YOU MUST HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR G.E.D. TO BECOME A SURGICAL TECHNICIAN**



# **P**RE-REQUISITES

- **Surgical Technicians typically need postsecondary education.**
- **One year Medical Terminology (2 semesters - 2 lectures and a minimum of 1 lab)**
- **One year Human Anatomy & Physiology (2 semesters including lectures and laboratories)**
- **One semester Introductory Biology (lecture only)**
- **One semester Pharmacology (lecture only)**

Every school has different requirements. Most Surgical Technician schools will want the pre-requisite courses completed prior to entering their Surgical Tech Program. It's an **EXCELLENT IDEA** to take as many of these courses as AP classes in High School. You'll get these credits done before you leave High School. (Caution: Make sure you take "college level" AP and not just Honors level classes)!

# Additional Requirements

## National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (CTS)

### *In College*



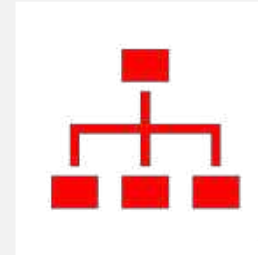
Many schools require that you take a practice CTS.

### *After You Graduate*



All Surgical Techs **MUST PASS** the CTS before they can practice

### *After you Pass the CTS*



Generally speaking, you must apply for a license for every state where you want to practice

There are a couple of Certifying Organizations:

- 1) The CTS, is a National standardized exam that the board of surgical technicians uses to determine whether a candidate is prepared for entry-level surgical tech practice.
- 2) Certification through the [National Center for Competency Testing](#) allows the use of the title “Tech in Surgery – Certified or TS-C (NCCT).



# P ROGRAM

Try to reduce the overall costs of education by **ANY MEANS NECESSARY**

Go to a **COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Stay In State

Stay At Home

Become a T.A. (Teacher Assistant)

Work On Campus

**GET \$SCHOLAR\$HIP DOLLAR\$**

Apply for internships that lead to \$scholar\$hips

Apply for grant dollars

Work after school and during summers to offset costs

Save Money

    Birthday, Christmas, Graduation, Allowance Money

All of these will all help lower your **CLiFS#**

# PERSONALITY

## IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS





# **P**OSITIVES

Like other things in life, jobs have both negative and *positive* aspects to them. You'll want to investigate both aspects. Determine if you can *endure the negative* and *enjoy the positive*. In order for your experience to be balanced, you want to take both into account. Very likely, you'll find that the *positives* far outweigh the negatives. Either way, you will have done your homework and made an informed decision. You'll be glad you did.

Consider the following:

**Help saves lives**

*Flexible Schedule*

**Great Benefits**

*Ability to Travel*

**Good Pay**

*Trusted profession*

**Secure Future**

*Respected Career*

**Working 12 hours shifts**

*Uniforms (low maintenance)*

**Many Different Specialties**

*Great Knowledge Base*



# **P**ROBLEMS

Even when we enjoy our jobs, there can still be things about the job that are challenging. We believe that you won't let a little challenge take you down. But we encourage you to look squarely at the challenges, identify them and design a strategy to deal with them. Or determine if a different career might not be better fitted to your temperament.

Consider the following:

**Watching patients suffer**

**Stresses of the job**

**Dealing with bodily fluids**

**Being underappreciated**

**Tons of critical thinking**

**Getting attached to patients**

**Over 8 hrs on call nights**

**Busy Shifts**

**Hard time for new graduates to find Jobs**

**Busy Shifts**

**Work/Life balance difficult to maintain**

**You can forget yourself**

**Pressures on legs and back (You'll Need Compression Stockings)**

## Projected Growth



Grow 12% from  
2016- 2026

## Fast/Slow Growth



Much Faster  
than Average

## Growth/Decline Reason



- Increased chronic conditions
- Preventive care
- Baby-boomers living longer

## Similar Jobs



- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory
- Licensed Practical And Vocational Nurses

# PROJECTIONS

Does your chosen career path have longevity?

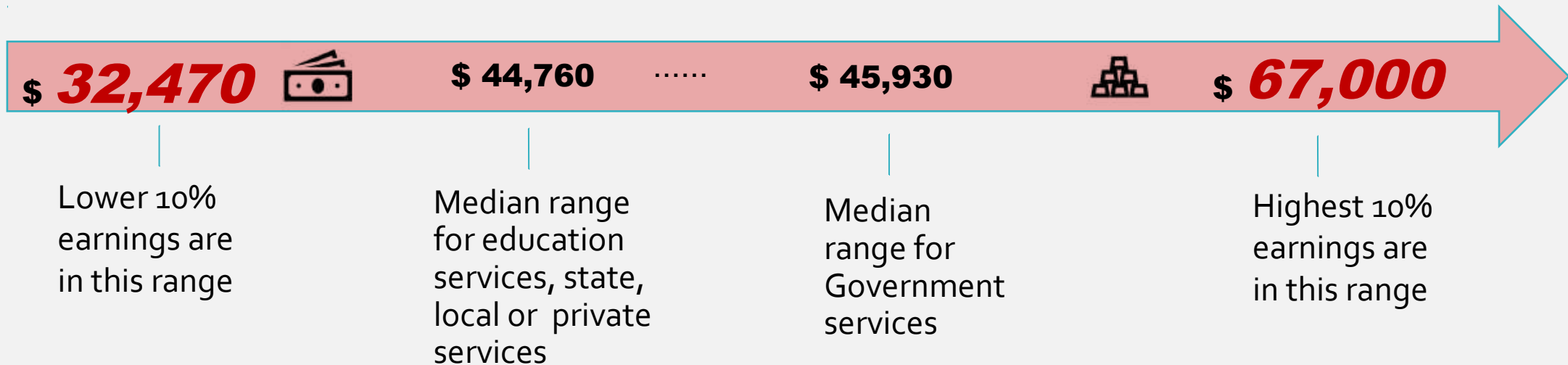
Is it a new profession with an unknown future?

Will competition, technology, regulatory changes or innovation impact the future of your chosen profession?

# PAY

The Median Salary for a Surgical Tech is **\$46,310** (22/hr)

The Average Yearly Salary is between...





# PAYBACK

These costs reflect the average for 2-years of education (tuition ONLY). There are other costs: Books, Supplies, Room and Board etc.

**\$24,000-\$100,00+**

## University

A 4-year college to get a 2-year degree can be **ridiculously expensive**

In-State	\$9,694
Out-of-State	\$17,214
Private	\$30,890

## Community College

Smaller class size, smaller campuses, **more economical**

In-State	\$7,270
Out-of-State	\$12,910
Private	\$23,167

## Advanced H.S. Classes & Community College

Example: In high school take AP Chemistry, Math, Biology, Lifespan and English.

**First semester college – DONE!**

# CLiFS#

Let's compare the cost of your education to your potential annual salary (*after graduation*).

The analysis below shows that your debt will be 53% of your annual salary. Which is considerably less than 96% of your salary if you chose an expensive 4-year university.

## Average Cost Degree

- So, you chose to go to a private community college.
- Your average tuition ALONE was **\$25,000** for Surgical Tech Associates Degree.
- Additional costs: Room and Board, Books, Supplies etc. (*not added here*)

## Average Annual Salary (After graduation)

- Average Salary between \$32,470-67,000
- The Mean Salary is **\$46,310**.

## CLiFS#

Average Cost \$25,000

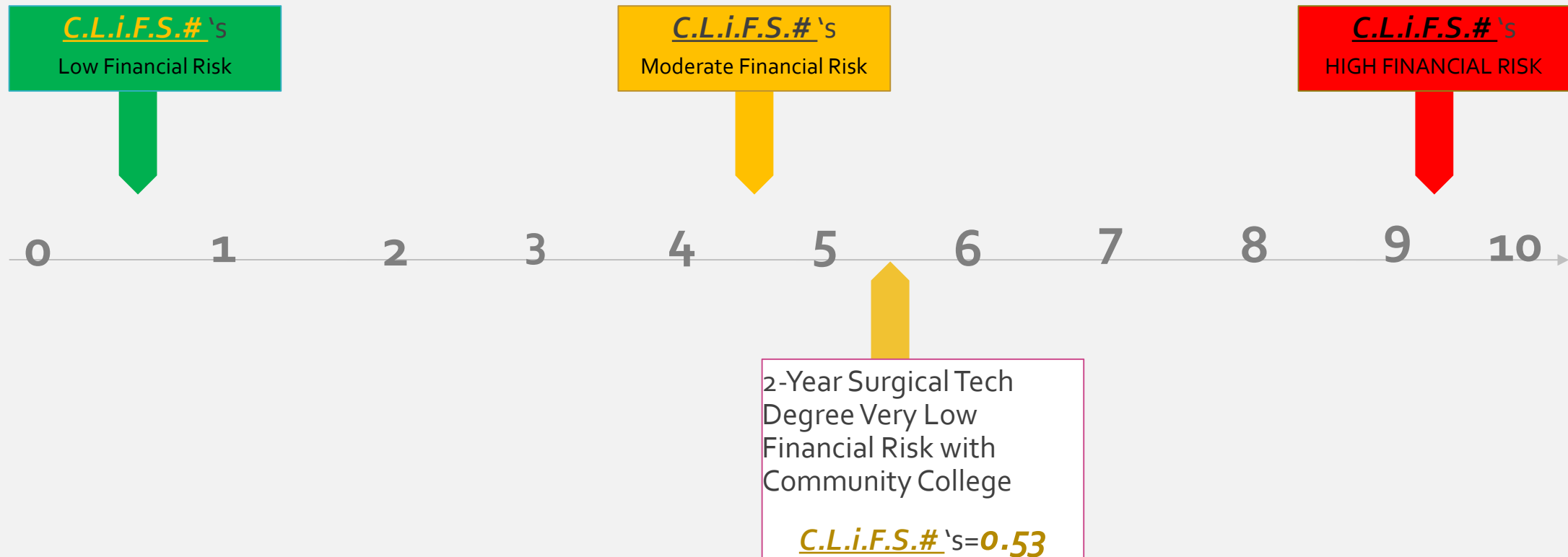
---

Avg. Mean Salary  
**\$46,310**

This yields a **CLiFS#**  
score of **0.53**

# CLiFS# CHALLENGE LYFE Financial and Scholastic Risks Numbers

Compared to other Professions







ONE-STEP-EXPLORATION or  
*(CLOSE)*

## CATEGORY: MEDICINE

Career Field: **Surgical Technician**

Thank you for taking the time to learn our detailed step-by-step "10 P" Method to exploring which fields of Medicine have the best potential to fulfill you emotionally, socially and financially!

