Certification as a Surgical Technologist Exam Pass Rates

The National Certifying Examination for Surgical Technologists covers the knowledge and skills common to competent entry-level Surgical Technologists in varied settings and geographical locations. NBSTSA committee members designed the examination to assess the knowledge that comprises the core body of knowledge for all surgical technologists.

Approved candidates who take and pass the CST® examination are authorized to use the initials CST as long as they maintain certification currency.

CST EXAM PASS RATES

ARC/STSA Annual Report	Number of Students/ Graduates Taking Exam	Number Who Passed First Exam Taken ¹	Number Who Failed First Exam Taken	Pass Rate
2019	78	57	21	73%
2020	67	54	13	81%
2021	46	41	5	89%
2022	48	41	7	85%

¹ Number Who Passed First Exam Taken means is the number of graduate students who took and passed the certification exam on the first attempt as reported on the applicable ARC/STSA Annual Report.