

Visitors/Observers/Students in the OR FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I am a surgeon and had someone request to shadow me in the OR. How do I make this happen?**
 - Determine the role of the person wanting to observe, (student, physician, staff member, etc.)
 - Reach out to the appropriate contact (See addendum at the end of FAQ section)
 - Include Periop Education for awareness periopeducation@vumc.org
 - Periop Education to be contacted by responsible department for scheduling observation
 - Periop Education provides a Periop Basics class before observer allowed in OR
 - This is a virtual, online, interactive, instructor led class and is held every Friday morning
 - This class is not optional – our patients’ safety is our priority and anyone who enters the OR should have a baseline knowledge of the surgical environment as well as expectations
 - Plan ahead – Periop Education cannot accommodate last minute requests
 - Example:
 - “I have a student who wants to shadow me today – this is the only day they can come”
 - This student will have to select another day as we cannot accommodate last minute training
2. **What does the Periop Basics class cover?**
 - Surgical attire
 - Review the Periop Dress Code
 - ID Badges
 - PPEs
 - Review of surgical zones
 - Standard precautions
 - Hand hygiene
 - Overview of emergency safety systems
 - Overview of the surgical suite and OR team member roles
 - OR Etiquette
 - Introducing yourself to the team and explaining your role
 - Movement around the sterile field
 - Educating about how to move around the field as an un-scrubbed person
 - Maintaining proper boundaries - Must be at least 12 inches away from the sterile field if un-scrubbed
 - Surgical conscience
3. **Who must attend the Periop Basics class, how often is it held and how do I sign up?**
 - Anyone who observes, shadows, visits the Adult OR must attend a Periop Basics class provided by Perioperative Education *prior* to their observation
 - Once Periop Education is notified of your approved OR observation, you will be sent a link to register for the online training class which is held every week on Friday from 7:00am-7:30am CST
Subject to change – observer notified in advance if there are changes
 - Class should be attended close to your observation in the OR – not months in advance

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4. Can I scrub into cases after taking the class?

- No – this class does not train the visitor to scrub into cases
- Visitors who go through VOE are not permitted to scrub into cases
- VOE permits visitors to observe in the OR for a **one time, 8-hour observational experience only** – No hands on allowed

5. I am a visiting medical student and did not go through VOE. Can I scrub into cases?

- Visiting Medical Students are not permitted to scrub into cases unless the sponsoring surgeon requests them to do so, and notifies Perioperative Education in advance of their rotation periopeducation@vumc.org
- If a student, (visiting medical student) is being asked by a Surgeon to scrub into a case, proof of scrub training from the students' home institution must be provided to Perioperative Education or the student will not be permitted to scrub into cases
- If such proof cannot be provided, the student will not be permitted to scrub in unless they attend a Scrub Training class by Perioperative Education
 - i. These scrub classes are scheduled well in advance
 - ii. Last minute classes **will not** be provided to accommodate lack of planning, preparation, and notification of the need for you to scrub in

6. How can I enroll in scrub training provided by Periop Education?

- Once it has been determined that scrubbing is a **necessary** part of your OR experience, Periop Education will send you a date for the next training class
- Last minute training classes will not be accommodated – plan ahead

7. How do OR staff verify completion of Periop scrub training?

- You will be given a scrub sticker to place on the back of your ID badge as proof of your attendance and completion of the training (see image below)
- Our staff are trained to verify the visitor scrubbing in has had scrub training
- Without this sticker, you will not be allowed to scrub
- For visitors without a sticker, OR staff contacts Periop Education for verification of training



8. I am an internal employee – why do I have to go through VOE and take a Periop Basics class?

- VOE is the vetting process to ensure that all required documentation, confidentiality agreement, and safety quiz are completed
- Again - Anyone who observes, shadows, visits the Adult OR must attend a Periop Basics class
- Last minute training classes will not be accommodated – plan ahead