

Sterile Processing Technician

INDUSTRY FACTS



What does a sterile processing technician do?

Sterile processing technicians play a vital role in healthcare!

They're responsible for cleaning, decontaminating, sterilizing, and preparing various tools and medical equipment used for both invasive and non-invasive procedures. A sterile environment is essential to patient care and recovery, so a strict adherence to sterilization processes is a must, as well as a strong attention to detail. Common duties for sterile processing technicians include

- Clean, decontaminate, and sterilize medical equipment and instrumentation.
- Prepare and package medical equipment and instrumentation while keeping an accurate inventory of these devices.
- Test, monitor, and operate various types of equipment responsible for sterilizing medical devices and instrumentation.
- Retrieval of contaminated supplies, instrumentation, and medical equipment from various departments in a hospital, ambulatory surgery center, or dental clinic.
- Distribution of medical supplies and equipment in a hospital, ambulatory care center, or dental clinic.

Where do they work?

Sterile processing technicians most often work in a hospital setting, focusing on the operating rooms, though they are responsible for working with every department that deals with medical equipment, supplies, devices, and medical



waste. Sterile processing techs may also find work in any medical setting that requires proper sterilization of equipment and tools, though there may be fewer jobs available in these areas.

How much do they earn?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual salary for medical equipment preparers, including sterile processing technicians, was \$41,480 as of May 2021*.

How's the job outlook?

Overall, jobs in the healthcare industry as a whole are expected to be in demand, adding around 2 million new jobs over the next decade.* Sterile processing technicians, who play such an important role in the safety and well-being of patients, can expect faster-than-average growth in the industry, meaning there is plenty of potential to find a rewarding job in the field.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. "Medical Equipment Preparers." Occupational Employment and Wages. Accessed March 25, 2024.

Statements found in the United States Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook are not a guarantee of any post-graduation salary, in part because the data used to create the Occupational Outlook Handbook includes workers from differing educational backgrounds, levels of experience, and geographic areas of the country.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Prepare For A Better Job

If you're interested in working in the healthcare industry, but don't necessarily want to work one-on-one with patients, becoming a sterile processing technician can allow you to start a new and rewarding career that fits your goals. Through our online Sterile Processing Training, designed with job-readiness in mind, you can develop the skills and knowledge you need to qualify for an entry-level job online and prepare for industry certification.

Learn Your Way – From Wherever You Are

With online training, you can absorb more knowledge and learn more skills—fast.

- Study on a schedule that fits your life
- Progress at a pace that matches your learning style
- Adjust the time and effort you devote to your coursework each day

Receive Coaching and Guidance

We're dedicated to seeing you succeed and achieve your career goals. When you're training to become a sterile processing technician online, we've got your back. You'll have access to

- Learner support
- Technical support
- Career support

Get Certified

We'll prepare you to take nationally recognized exams so you can explore greater opportunities in your area.

- **Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST)**
Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) offered through Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA). Learners can sit for provisional certification upon successful completion of this program. Full CRCST certification is obtained after acquiring 400 hours of hands-on experience in a sterile processing department within six months of obtaining provisional certification.

Program Outline

Course

Program Orientation: Sterile Processing Technician

Digital Technology

Comprehensive Medical Terminology

Sterile Processing Foundations

Practical Applications of Sterile Processing

Career Success in Healthcare

Program Completion: Sterile Processing Technician