



2023-24 Sterile Processing Technician Short-Term Certificate Map

Course Sequencing		
Year	Quarter	Subject
First Year	Winter	HSCI 147 (Medical Terminology) SPT 100 (Foundations of Sterile Processing)
	Spring	SPT 150 (Sterile Processing Clinical)

BEFORE YOU START

Ready to get started? Applicants must be a CBC student before applying to this program. If you are not currently a CBC student, please go to the [Apply for Admission](#) page on the CBC website to enroll or request a paper application. You must also:

- Attend a Sterile Processing Technician information session
- Have a current placement test score that places them into Math 40 or higher, English 98 or higher and Reading 99 or higher. Transcripts from CBC or another college or university showing these courses have been fulfilled is also accepted.
- Complete HSCI 147 Medical Terminology (5 credit) class with a minimum grade of 2.0 or enroll in HSCI 147 upon acceptance into the HCST program

Program Application

The next opportunity to apply for the Sterile Processing Technician (SPT) program will be in September 2023 for a winter quarter start. The Sterile Processing Technician program is a two-quarter program and is offered once a year. The program starts each spring quarter and is completed by the end of summer quarter.

Applicants are required to include a copy of the following with the program application:

- American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR card/certificate
- Current First Aid card
- One professional letter of reference

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Sterile Processing Technician (SPT) program at Columbia Basin College (CBC) prepares students for an entry-level career in sterile processing and materiel management. Sterile processing technicians perform decontamination and sterilization procedures required to ensure proper reprocessing of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic equipment, surgical instrumentation and medical supplies. Additional duties include assembly and inspection of surgical instruments, maintenance and delivery of patient equipment, inventory control and supply ordering, and preoperative case preparation.

OUT OF CLASS TO DO'S

For the accepted student:

Before registration is completed by the Health Science Center staff, you will be asked to start a National Background check and drug screen with an approved third party company. Information from this will determine student eligibility to complete clinical coursework. Inability to complete a clinical rotation due to the information obtained from the background check or drug screen may make the student ineligible for the program. Students will be required to upload documentation of the required immunizations to the immunization tracker before being allowed to attend clinical.

The cost to the student for the background check, drug screen and immunization tracker will be approximately \$170.00.

Professional Licensure Outside of Washington State:

Each state, the District of Columbia and the U.S. protectorates vary in what professions they require to be licensed and the educational requirements for those licenses. It's important to understand whether the degree or certificate you obtain from CBC will meet the educational eligibility requirements for a license in the state in which you plan to practice.

[View educational licensure requirements by state.](#)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The healthcare industry is one of the largest employers in the United States. There are a variety of names for sterile processing technicians:

- Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST)
- Sterile processing and distribution technician
- Sterilization technician
- Sterile instrument technician
- Medical instrument technician
- Central sterile technician

After completing the SPT program, work can be found anywhere medical equipment is used, such as:

- Hospitals
- Dental surgery clinics
- Outpatient care centers
- Specialty care centers
- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Medical equipment processing facilities
- GI endoscopy clinics
- Medical supply and equipment distributors

With additional education and experience, graduates of the SPT program can work toward certification as a:

- Certified Instrument Specialist (CIS)
- Certified Endoscope Reprocessor (CER)
- Certified Healthcare Leader (CHL)

Becoming a sterile processing technician provides a stepping-stone to other medical career opportunities, allowing you employment while furthering your education. While employed as an SPT, you will experience various areas of medicine that may entice you to pursue other fields, such as Surgical Technology, Registered Nursing, Radiologic Technology, etc. Overall, one of the best ways to increase your pay as a SPT is to obtain additional education and certifications.

FAQs

Class Times/Delivery Format

Classes are offered in a variety of formats, including in-person, online and hybrid.

Length of Program

The program is two quarters in length and equips students with the skills necessary to provide advanced life-saving care.

Which Quarter Can I Begin?

The program starts every winter quarter.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID OR OTHER FUNDING

Did you know??? You can apply for CBC scholarships two times every year! Click [here](#) for more information!

PLEASE NOTE: *This document represents a sample plan for degree completion with this program of study. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your Completion Coach. Completion Coaches can also help you plan other experiences to enrich your education such as internships, research, learning communities, and campus involvement and community-based learning.*

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 7 am to 4:30 pm; Friday 7 am to noon

LEARN MORE |



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