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Surgical Processing Technician Certificate Program

Become an important part of a healthcare team.

Explore one of the most exciting, highly technical, and specialized environments in healthcare. The surgical processing department of a healthcare facility is the center of all activity involving supplies and equipment needed for surgery and other patient care areas.

The Surgical Processing Technician program provides students with the knowledge and professional skills necessary to deliver support to all patient care areas within a healthcare facility. Students learn processes for maintaining medical instruments and devices that must be decontaminated, processed, sterilized, and distributed in hospitals and surgical centers. Graduates have in-depth knowledge of operating rooms, operating room procedures, instruments used in operating rooms, and processes for sterilizing and packaging instruments used during surgery.

Students who wish to enhance their career opportunities can apply Surgical Processing Technician program credits toward the Berkeley College Health Sciences Associate in Applied Science degree program.

Benefit from:

- A strong foundation in both the theory and techniques of decontamination
- Hands-on learning in on-site Surgical Processing Technician laboratories that simulate the surgical processing environment
- Opportunities to practice communication and interpersonal skills needed for developing a rapport with colleagues and patients
- Valuable, practical experience gained through the completion of a Clinical Practicum at an off-campus healthcare facility
- Eligibility to sit for the Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) examination

Certified surgical processing technician eligibility

The Berkeley College Surgical Processing Technician program meets the requirements of the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM). As a result, graduates of the Surgical Processing Technician program are eligible to sit for the Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) examination.

Course Requirements

MAJOR COURSES

Qtr. hrs. credit

SPT100 Introduction to Surgical Processing

3

SPT110 Surgical Instrumentation I: Inspection, Identification, Handling	4
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SPT120 Surgical Instrumentation II: Sterile Packaging and Processing	4
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SPT130 Sterilization, Cleaning, and Decontamination Techniques	4
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SPT150 Surgical Processing Clinical Practicum	8
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Supervised practical work-experience program in a sterile processing environment which provides students with hands-on experience. Didactic and laboratory skills acquired in the program are applied in the clinical setting.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

SPT151 Clinical Seminar	2
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HEALTHCARE COURSES

HEA200 Medical Terminology I	4
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HEA201 Medical Terminology II	4
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BUSINESS COURSES

CIS115 Computer Applications	4
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LIBERAL ARTS COURSES

SCI228 Microbiology	4
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SCI242 Bioethics and Medical Law	4
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47 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

In the final quarter most on-site courses will be offered only during the late afternoon and early evening so as not to interfere with clinical rotations.

Governing regulations may disqualify individuals from obtaining professional

certification in this field based upon health or criminal records. Therefore, in addition to meeting the **immunization requirements** of Berkeley College and the State of New Jersey, students applying to the Surgical Processing Technician program must provide authorization for a criminal background check prior to registration and submit a physical assessment by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant prior to participating in clinical rotations. Hepatitis B vaccination and a tetanus shot are also recommended for all students enrolled in the Surgical Processing Technician program.

Extensive criminal background checks may be repeated after admission at the request of clinical facilities; and positive findings may prevent students from completing the clinical portion of the program, graduating, and/or participating in the certification exam. Health requirements required for clinical courses include 12-panel urine drug screening, flu vaccine, skin testing for tuberculosis, and various serum laboratory tests. The costs of these health requirements are borne by the student and may total several hundred dollars.

To qualify for graduation, students are required to achieve a C+ in all Surgical Processing Technician (SPT) courses and SCI228 Microbiology. Students are also required to participate in the Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) certification examination.

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- **SAMPLE PROGRAM SEQUENCE**

 - **Surgical Processing Technician Certificate Program Statistics**