

Central Sterile Processing Technician



What I do:

Prepare, sterilize, install, or clean laboratory or health care equipment. May perform routine laboratory tasks and operate or inspect equipment.

My job is most suited to people who are:

- ✓ Hands on
- ✓ Detail oriented
- ✓ Analytical

Related first job titles include:

Sterile Processing Technician
Central Processing Technician (CPT)
Central Sterile Supply Technician (CSS Technician)
Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician (SPD Technician)
Medical Supply Technician

My main duties are to:

- Organize and assemble routine and specialty surgical instrument trays and other sterilized supplies, filling special requests as needed.
- Clean instruments and other medical devices to prepare them for sterilization.
- Operate and maintain steam, ETO, low temperature gas plasma, peracetic acid, ozone and dry heat sterilizers, keeping records of loads completed, items in loads, and maintenance procedures performed.
- Record sterilizer test results.
- Disinfect patient care equipment (e.g., infusion machines, DVT machines, suction pumps).
- Operate sterilization and processing equipment and observe gauges and equipment operation to detect malfunctions and to ensure equipment is operating to prescribed standards.
- Examine equipment to detect leaks, worn or loose parts, or other indications of disrepair.
- Report defective equipment to appropriate supervisors or staff.
- Check sterile supplies to ensure that they are stored to enhance sterility maintenance and that the packaging has not been compromised.
- Maintain records of inventory and equipment usage.

Things to consider about my job:

- Usually work in physician's offices, clinics, surgical centers, hospitals, etc.
- Training programs require a criminal background check.
- Job requires that I wear protective clothing and equipment. Also requires stamina to stand and walk for extended periods of time and strength to frequently move 20+ lbs. of equipment.
- Some employers hire new graduates, but others prefer or require that job applicants have a few months to 1 year of work experience in a health care setting. Many employers also prefer or require certification from CBSPD or IAHCSSM, or another nationally recognized organization.
- Employers seek individuals who are organized, detail-oriented, and careful to read and follow instructions. Also seek solid communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Job requires patience to perform routine tasks and skill to work with small parts

WHAT MAKES MY JOB HOT?

Faster than average growth:

- In Massachusetts, this job is expected to **grow by 12%** from 2006-2016.

Good pay:

- 2008 Worcester earnings:
\$12.67/hr. (entry) - \$18.05/hr. (experienced)
\$15.33/hr. (median)

Typical job benefits include:

- Health care
- 401(k) plan
- Tuition and certification reimbursement

Employers in Worcester include:

- UMass Memorial Medical Center
- St. Vincent's Hospital



For more information about this job:

- O*NET Online
<http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/31-9093.00>
- Career Voyages (see "Medical Equipment Preparer" in table—click for description, state report, or video)
<http://www.careervoyages.gov/allindustries-indemand.cfm?pagenumber=5&sortby=projectedneed&industrynumber=6>
- YouTube video on Sterile Processing
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztDY1w_c7Fo
- MassCIS (under "Medical Equipment Preparers")
<http://masscis.intocareers.org/info2.aspx?FileID=Occ&FileNum=100494&TopicNum=0>
- Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD)
<http://www.sterileprocessing.org>
- International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSSM)
<http://www.iahcssm.org/>

SOURCE: Career Voyages; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey; Massachusetts Wage Information; MA Department of Workforce Development; Massachusetts Career Information System; YouTube; America's Career InfoNet (O*NET OnLine)

Source: Best Bets, Jobs for the Future

Postsecondary and Career Pathway

Central Services and Materials Management Certificate

Jane Doe

123.456.7890, jdoe@college.edu

Office Room # A113

STEP 1

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Accuplacer Scores

- Arithmetic: 90 or above
- Algebra: No required score
- Reading: No required score
- Essay: Your placement essay must meet the standards for WR 100

OR

Developmental Education Courses

- MA 090 – Basic Math
- LN 090 – Intro to Language

STEP 2

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite Courses and Other Program Admissions Requirements

- Completion of CP 200: Central Processing Technician Program through the Mass Bay Corporate Training Center. Or complete Certified Registered Central Service Technician Online through Purdue University
- Must Pass IAHCSSM Certification Exam
- Criminal background check

STEP 3

COURSE SEQUENCE

Semester 1 Courses	Course Name	Grade Required
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 110	General Biology	C (minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> CM 110	Principles and Practice I	C (minimum)

Semester 2 Courses	Course Name	Grade Required
<input type="checkbox"/> CM 102	Principles and Practice II	C (minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> CM 102 C	Clinical	C (minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> CS 104	Microcomputer Application for Business	

Semester 3 Courses	Course Name	Grade Required
<input type="checkbox"/> CM 103	Principles and Practice III	C (minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> CM 103C	Clinical	C (minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> MAC 100	Business Math	
<input type="checkbox"/> WR 100	College Writing	
<input type="checkbox"/> WR 100L	College Writing Lab	

Semester 4 Courses if Applicable	Course Name	Grade Required
<input type="checkbox"/>		

Semester 5 Courses if Applicable	Course Name	Grade Required
<input type="checkbox"/>		

Or, after some experience as a Central Sterile Processing Technician, consider:

- Surgical Technologist, \$21.24 (median); or
- Registered Nursing, \$33.21 (median)

STEP 8

Manager

- Bachelor's degree; Master's degree a plus
- 5+ yrs. experience
- ~\$35+/hr.

STEP 7

Supervisor

- Some college credits or Associate's degree preferred
- 3+ yrs. Experience preferred
- ~\$25/hr.

STEP 6

Central Sterile Processing Tech III

- 2-3 yrs. experience
- ~\$18/hr

Central Sterile Processing Tech II

- 1-2 yrs. experience
- ~\$15/hr.

STEP 5

Central Sterile Processing Tech I

- New graduate; 1 yr. experience preferred
- ~\$12.50/hr.

Get Work Experience!

- Volunteer in a hospital
- Complete Practicum course (BIO111) to complete 200 hours of job training!

STEP 4

LAND YOUR FIRST JOB

Graduate with a Certificate in Central Services and Materials Management, pass the certification exam and land your first job.

Source: Best Bets, Jobs for the Future