

PREPPY PROGRAM

Sterile Processing Technician

Build the foundational knowledge and technical skills to ensure patient safety through proper sterilization and instrument management in healthcare environments.

Course Features



Textbook Access

Learners must purchase the required texts in hard copy



10 Hours of Tutoring

One-on-one support from subject matter experts



Career & Résumé Support

Professional resume review and career coaching



Learning Resources

Instructional videos and interactive content



Peer Community

Discussion boards for collaboration and peer support

How This Program Works

The Sterile Processing Technician (SPT) pathway is structured in five stages. You'll begin with foundation courses in student success, anatomy & physiology, and medical terminology. Passing the foundation courses with a 70% or higher unlocks the SPT concentration course – a comprehensive curriculum covering sterile processing principles, infection prevention, decontamination, sterilization methods, instrumentation handling, and quality assurance. After completing the concentration, you'll have the option to pursue national certification, receive your university certificate, and access externship placement and vocational assistance to launch your career.

Throughout the program, you'll learn through reading assignments, expert-led instructional videos, interactive practice activities, soft skill scenarios, and real-world case studies.

Foundation Courses

Complete these three courses before advancing to the concentration. They establish the mindset, vocabulary, and body-system knowledge essential for sterile processing success.

Success for Healthcare Workers

Build self-awareness, time management, critical thinking, and professional skills needed to thrive in course and career.

Anatomy & Physiology

Explore body systems, anatomical terminology, and clinical documentation with a focus that connects directly to the concentration course.

Medical Terminology

Master the structure of medical terms — prefixes, roots, and suffixes — along with abbreviations, pathology language, and clinical documentation vocabulary.

⚠ **Progression Requirement:** A score of 70% must be achieved in Medical Terminology to unlock the Concentration Course.

SPT Concentration Course

The core of the program — 9 checkpoints that take you from Sterile Processing Department fundamentals through advanced quality monitoring and professional practice, with 4 periodic benchmarks to confirm mastery along the way.

SPD Operations & Safety

Department workflow, regulatory compliance, professional associations, safety protocols, and risk management within sterile processing environments.

Microbiology & Infection Control

Microorganisms, disease transmission, chain of infection, and infection prevention strategies in healthcare settings.

Decontamination & Sterilization

Packaging, Storage & Distribution

Cleaning processes, chemical disinfectants, sterilization methods (steam, EO, LTGP, VHP), sterilizer operation, and troubleshooting failures.

Assembly standards, packaging materials, labeling, sterile storage principles, event-related sterility, and inventory management.

Instrumentation & Equipment

Surgical instrument categories, function awareness, inspection, testing, care requirements, and patient care equipment management.

Quality & Professional Practice

Monitoring, documentation, quality assurance, information technology, communication with clinical areas, and professional development.

Course Textbooks

You are required to purchase the following textbooks on your own, and these texts are only available in hard copy format:

Sterile Processing Technical Manual, 9th Edition (HSPA)

Sterile Processing Technical Manual Workbook, 9th Edition (HSPA)

STAGE 3

Sit for Your Certification Exam


Upon completing the SPT Concentration Course, you'll have access to targeted study materials designed to help you prepare for national certification exams. **Sitting for a certification exam is optional and entirely your choice.**

Certification Options

This course is designed as an exam-agnostic core curriculum that supports entry-level readiness for industry certification. You may choose to pursue the following nationally recognized certification:

CRCST – Certified Registered Central Service Technician

Offered by the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA). This exam validates your knowledge across all core competencies of sterile processing.

 **Eligibility Requirements:** Each certifying organization has its own eligibility criteria, which may include specific educational requirements, clinical hour minimums, or other prerequisites. You are responsible for verifying that you meet all requirements before registering for an exam.

STAGE 4

Receive Your University Certificate

Upon successful completion of all foundation courses and the SPT Concentration Course, you will receive a certificate of completion from our university partner.

What This Certificate Represents

- Official recognition of your completion of a comprehensive sterile processing program
- Demonstration of competency in sterile processing principles, infection prevention, decontamination, sterilization methods, and instrumentation handling
- A credential from a regionally accredited institution to include on your résumé and professional profiles
- Validation of your readiness to pursue externship and employment opportunities

STAGE 5

Externship & Career Placement Support

Upon completing the SPT Concentration Course, you'll receive comprehensive resources and guidance to secure your externship placement and launch your career in sterile processing.

Externship Support

- Externship introductory call to guide your site search
- Access to prospective externship sites in your area
- Clinical affiliation agreement template
- Site procurement checklist to organize your outreach
- On-site success strategies to maximize your experience
- Clinical hours timesheet template

- 30-day follow-up call to support your progress

Career Placement Support

- Career services introductory call
- Prospective employer leads in your area
- Mock interview preparation to build your confidence
- 30-day follow-up to support your job search

Your Active Role: You will take the lead in securing your externship placement and job position. Our career support team provides resources, site leads, templates, and guidance throughout the process—but you'll be responsible for reaching out to facilities, coordinating placements, and managing your job search. This hands-on approach builds the professional communication and initiative skills that employers value.

Program Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful, and responsible manner. Violations include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and academic misconduct. Failure to comply may result in a zero on the assessment, removal from the course, or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion

All required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded for the course to be considered complete. Required coursework consists of graded assignments, benchmarks, and the final exam.

AI Use-Case Policy

AI use-case policies are designated per assessment and noted within each checkpoint. StraighterLine Preppy Pathways support three models: **Independent Work Requirement**, **AI-Assisted Planning Option**, and **AI-Integration Requirement**. Refer to individual assessments for the applicable policy.