



# **Sterile Processing Technician FAQs**

## **WHAT DOES A STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIAN DO?**

Sterile Processing Technicians are an integral part of the healthcare setting and function in the hub of all activities involving supplies and equipment. They supply the needs to the operating room, obstetrics, emergency department and all other patient care areas. In particular, they ensure the proper cleaning of all surgical instrumentation and disinfection of supplies. Students learn the principles of standard precautions, asepsis, and disinfection and sterilization procedures. Sterile Processing is located in all healthcare facilities such as nursing homes, clinics and hospitals.

## **IS THERE A CERTIFICATION REQUIRED TO BE A STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIAN?**

Many employers prefer and some require employees working as Sterile Processing Technicians to become certified. At the conclusion of the one semester program, graduates are eligible to take the examination administered by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD).

## **WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA OR DEGREE?**

Students who have already completed college level work may be eligible to transfer credits for use in this program. Most commonly, students transfer courses such as medical terminology, anatomy and physiology or other general education courses. If you already have an associate's degree or higher, you may be eligible to transfer all your general education courses. Please note that some general education courses may still be required as they are program specific.

## **IS THERE A WAITING LIST FOR STERILE PROCESSING?**

The core program class is offered every spring semester. Generally, upon admission, students are assigned to the next spring program start. Occasionally, a longer wait exists. Please consult with admissions for specifics on the semester when core classes are available.

## **DO I NEED TO GO TO THE MARSHFIELD CAMPUS FOR THIS PROGRAM?**

Some of the general program courses (i.e. Medical Terminology, Applied MS Office for Health) may be completed at another Mid-State location or online. The core program class is available in-person on the Marshfield Campus. Students should plan to travel to their clinical experience at locations in Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, and Marshfield.

## **WHERE DO STERILE PROCESSING STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE?**

As previously mentioned, students should be prepared to travel to clinical sites. Students participate in clinical at Aspirus Hospital in Stevens Point, Marshfield Clinic's Ambulatory Surgery Center in Marshfield, and at Wisconsin Rapids Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids.

## **CAN I GO TO SCHOOL PART-TIME?**

Many students start taking general course requirements such as Medical Terminology on a part-time basis (six or less credits per semester). The program is designed to be completed in one semester if you attend full-time, but students may take any or all their general education courses before enrolling in the core Sterile Processing Technician course.

## **DO I NEED TO ATTEND PROGRAM ONBOARDING?**

Program onboarding for Sterile Processing is completed by students in-person and is required. Approximately two to three months before you begin taking core program classes you will receive information on when to attend program onboarding. The program onboarding provides another overview of the program and its curriculum. It also helps to ensure you understand the policies and procedures of the program.

## **WHAT IS CLINICAL HEALTH WORK?**

Students enrolling in health programs that require clinical experience must document some information about their health including their record of immunizations for certain communicable diseases, tuberculosis testing, and a criminal background check. This information is required by our clinical affiliates (sites where you will complete your clinical). Students complete the required background check using a private vendor called ViewPoint Screening. There is an additional fee for this service that is the responsibility of the student.