

# Sterile Processing Training Courses Information Packet



## **OVERVIEW**

Aseptic Technical Solutions is a Central Sterile Processing consulting company based in Philadelphia Pa. ATS offers Registered Central Service Technician and Endoscope Reprocessing courses designed to prepare students to sit for the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) sanctioned Certification exam, as well as an introductory knowledge of the inner workings of a Sterile Processing Department and Endoscopy Reprocessing. ATS also specializes in process improvement strategies, workflow streamlining, lean strategies, continued education in-services, instrument repair and staffing for sterile processing departments.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Our Central Service/Endoscope Reprocessing Technician courses are designed to maximize your learning experience, using the curriculum sanctioned by the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) along with an interactive, comprehensive program designed to prepare students for the CRCST or CER certification exams. The objective of our courses is to introduce you to the role of Central Service or Endoscope Reprocessing and how it relates to the success of patient care.

## **WHAT IS A CERTIFIED REGISTERED CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN**

The Majority of medical procedures require the use of supplies, instruments and/or equipment. Some items are disposable, while others are reusable, and need to be reprocessed for further use. A CRCST is a technician that works within the Central Sterile Processing department that cleans, decontaminates, assembles, sterilizes, and stores reusable surgical instruments.

## **WHAT IS A CERTIFIED ENDOSCOPE REPROCESSOR**

In recent years, health care facilities have seen a surge of surgical site infections (SSI's) related stemming from improper cleaned/high-level disinfected flexible endoscopes. A CER is generally someone with a Central Sterile Processing background that is tasked with reprocessing of flexible endoscopes. Some of the functions are pre-clean, test, decontaminate, inspect, disinfect and/or sterilize, transport, and store endoscopes in accordance with industry standards, guidelines and regulations, and manufacturers' instructions for use.

**Q: What is CPD? SPD? CSP?**

A: The Central Processing Department is the nucleus of a healthcare facility where medical/surgical supplies and equipment are cleaned, processed, packaged, sterilized, and used for patient care.

**Q: What does a Central Processing Technician do?**

A: Central Processing Technicians are healthcare professionals who use specialized training in aseptic technique to ensure a sterilized environment for medical personnel and patients. Their primary responsibility is infection control, which includes cleaning, testing, assembling, adjusting, packaging and sterilizing reusable medical supplies, instruments and equipment.

**Q: What are the requirements to take the Central Processing Technician course?**

A: All applicants must pay the minimum tuition payment outlined on the tuition page. After successful payment, applicants must complete their student registration at the bottom of the website. Additionally, applicants should be seeking an HS Diploma or GED to obtain a job within a health care facility, along with the age of 18 years or older, at the time of internship rotation and employment opportunities. Please see student registration page: <https://sterileprocessingtraining.com/student-registration>

**Q: Do I have to have experience in the health care industry to take the CER Online course?**

A: Yes, three months of hands-on experience will be required to be eligible for the CER exam through HSPA. Non-certified endoscope reprocessors and or workers who perform any of the functions of an endoscope reprocessor are strongly encouraged to enroll in our course.

**Q: Are there any prerequisite courses I need to take before I take the Central Processing course?**

A: No. There are no prerequisite courses needed for this course.

**Q: How much does the course cost?**

A: The cost of the course is \$2,000 for in-classes, \$1,500 for virtual classes, and \$600 for self-study online classes. Please see tuition <https://sterileprocessingtraining.com/tuition-payments>

**Q: What does the program cost include?**

A: IAHCSCMM 8<sup>th</sup> edition textbook, Labs, Graduation, Certificate of completion for in-classes. Same material for self-study, and virtual courses except labs, which are substituted with learning videos, discussions, and other online activities.

**Q: Does ATS offer financial aid?**

A: Our institution does not provide financial aid. However, we do offer flexible payment plans.

**Q: Do I have to have experience in the health care industry to take the course?**

A: No. Our CRCST students come from diverse backgrounds that are not limited to the health care industry. You only need experience for our CER class. Please reach out to us directly for more information.

**Q: Do I need to know medical terminology before I begin the course?**

A: No. Each chapter comes with a list of medical terms. We encourage students to study these lists and memorize them. Knowing and understanding medical terminology plays a big role in your success in the field.

**Q: What is the length of the course?**

A: CRCST class is Scheduled for 16 weeks for our in-classes and virtual. Generally, in 2.5-3-hour blocks. One day a week. Self-study is available 24/7 and is entirely self-paced, so you make up your own schedule. Students have 12 months access to our online portal to complete the class. Our CER varies.

**Q: Does ATS provide an internship after completion?**

A: Yes, we do provide internship assistance. We have several contracted and verbal agreements with facilities that agree to take our students in their departments. However, due to limited spaces we place students based on certification status, grades, participation, attendance, maturity. Additionally, we offer internship assistance based on

our network to our long-distance learners across the United States based on their home addresses.

**Q: How will a typical in-class or virtual class look?**

A: For our in-class. Every week students will be required to read two chapters and complete the homework assignment for each. During class we will lecture and quiz each chapter and provide a lab or fun game if applicable to the chapter. Our virtual class follows a similar class flow without the in-class quiz/test taking. Students complete their exams on their own for our online classes. For virtual, we hold our class sessions through Zoom. All assignments are housed through our private online portal.

**Q: What are the graduation requirements?**

A: To be eligible for graduation from the program, students must meet the following criteria:

- All financial obligations must be met by the specified due date on the application
- The student must pass our final exam with scores of 70% or higher

**Q: Once I complete the program, will I be getting a certificate?** A: A certificate of completion is awarded to all students that successfully meet the requirements of the course.

**Q: Does the completion of this course automatically certify me as a Central Processing Technician?**

A: No. This program serves as an introduction to sterile processing and is the base requirement to enter the work force however it is highly recommended students attempt and pass the HSPA certification exam which will then certify you as a CRCST.

**Q: Where can I work once I complete the course?**

A: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to obtain entry level positions as a Central Processing Technician in hospitals, outpatient centers, surgical centers, doctors'/dentists' office, and other medical facilities.

**Q: What are the hours of a Central Service Technician or Endoscope Reprocessor?**

A: Some central processing departments may operate 24 hours a day so technicians must work shifts that may include nights, weekends, and holidays. Endoscope reprocessors typically work during office hours, i.e., (7am-3:30pm, 8am- 4:30pm, 9am-5:30pm).

**Q: What are the hours of a technician?**

A: Some central processing departments may operate 24 hours a day so technicians must work shifts that may include nights, weekends, and holidays.

**Q: How much will I make as a CPD Technician? CER Technician?**

A: Salaries vary anywhere from \$16/hr. to \$25/hr. for CPD. CER techs generally fall into a surgical tech or CPD salary, so the wages may replicate those of a CPD. We recommend during your research for your area and the facility you're applying to.

**Q: What skills do I need to be successful?**

A: Many Technicians should have the following skills: good organizational, planning, and interpersonal skills, ability to work independently or in a team setting, ability to adapt to changing technology, good problem-solving skills, and good physical stamina (ability to stand for long periods of time).

**Q: Whom can I contact if I have any questions?**

A: Should any questions or concerns arise contact us via our website contact form or 215-360-3177 or [contact@aseptictechnicalsolutions.com](mailto:contact@aseptictechnicalsolutions.com)