

Sterile Processing CERTIFICATE

Program Overview

The Saint Paul College Sterile Processing certificate is a 30-credit program that prepares graduates to work in medical facilities that prepare surgical instruments, supplies and equipment necessary for healthcare. This program includes a broad introduction to health sciences, as well as medical terminology, communication, and computers. The program curriculum includes instruction in decontamination processes, preparation, packaging, sterilization and sterile storage of surgical instrumentation and supplies.

Students who successfully complete the certificate program are prepared for entry-level employment in a sterile processing position. Graduates are eligible to take the certification examination following 400 hours of professional employment, and are eligible to apply to the AAS Surgical Technology Program at Saint Paul College.

Career Opportunities

The work environment is dynamic and fast-paced. The work is challenging, highly technical, and complex. The performance of this vital role has a major impact on the smooth operation of the many departments to which it provides products and services. Employment opportunities may be within hospitals, outpatient centers, and instrument processing centers. Wage information is available from the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Program Outcomes

1. To prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains
2. Utilize the English language effectively to read, write, speak, and listen critically
3. Enhance logical and critical thinking skills as it relates to sterile processing job duties
4. Preparation for entry level position in a sterile processing department
5. Demonstrate comprehension and identification of basic surgical instrumentation
6. Demonstrate proper usage of medical terminology as it relates to sterile processing
7. Develop and use computer skills utilized in sterile processing
8. Demonstrates an understanding of sterilization processes

Program Faculty

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Additional Program Materials

Students should expect to spend approximately \$135 for supplies. This cost is beyond the cost of tuition and fees and subject to change.

Program Requirements

- Check off when completed
- All SURG courses must be completed with a "C" or better.

Course	Cr
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 1471 Medical Terminology	2
<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC 1418 Computer Fundamentals.	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1405 Intro to Surgical Technology.	1
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1410 Sterile Processing	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SURG 1415 Surgical Microbiology	2
Subtotal	11

General Education/MnTC Requirements

General Education/MnTC Requirements	Cr
Refer to the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Course List for each Goal Area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 1: Communication	3
COMM 1710 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR	
COMM 1720 Interpersonal Communication – 3 cr	
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 3 Natural Sciences	13
BIOL 1740 General Biology 1	5
BIOL 2721 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1	4
BIOL 2722 Human Anatomy and Physiology 2	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 5: History, Social Science and Behavioral Sciences	3
PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan	3
General Education Requirements	19

Total Program Credits 30

*Successful completion of the Sterile Processing Certificate with a minimum 2.75 GPA is required for admission to the Surgical Technology AAS degree at Saint Paul College.

*Information is subject to change.
 This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

Program Start Dates

Fall, Spring

Day cohort classes offered as well as afternoon/evening cohorts. Day and afternoon/evening cohort start dates alternate every other semester. For more information, please consult with an academic advisor.

Course Sequence

The following course sequence is recommended. Not all courses are offered each semester; a selection of courses is offered summer term. Students should consult with an academic advisor each semester.

First Semester	
BIOL 1740 General Biology 1	5
PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan	3
Total Semester Credits	8

Second Semester	
BIOL 1471 Medical Terminology.	2
BIOL 2721 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1.	4
BTEC 1418 Computer Fundamentals	3
COMM 1710 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR	
COMM 1720 Interpersonal Communication.	3
Total Semester Credits	12

Third Semester	
BIOL 2722 Human Anatomy and Physiology 2.	4
SURG 1405 Intro to Surgical Technology	1
SURG 1410 Sterile Processing	3
SURG 1415 Surgical Microbiology	2
Total Semester Credits	10

Total Program Credits 30

Minimum Program Entry Requirements

Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

Reading: Score of 78+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722

Writing: Score of 78+ on Reading Comprehension or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922

Arithmetic: Score of 52+ or grade of "C" or better in MATH 0745

Assessment Results and Prerequisites: Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

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