

## 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

- To prepare competent entry-level sterile processors in the cognitive (knowledge) psycho motor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.
- Communicate effectively and professionally with all members of a diverse sterile processing team.
- Apply logical and critical thinking skills as it relates to sterile processing job duties.
- Demonstrate safe handling of surgical instrumentation, equipment and supplies used in surgical patient care.
- Identify surgical instrumentation, supplies, and equipment used in surgical patient care.
- Use appropriate medical technology knowledge related to the role of the sterile processor.
- Apply computer skills required in sterile processing.
- Describe the cycle of sterilization, as it relates to sterile processing.
- Demonstrate proficiency with aseptic technique as it relates to sterile processing.

### 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 OR BTEC 1421 Business Information Applications 1 . . . . .	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
<b>Subtotal . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>

### 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 Lifespan Development. . . . .	3
<b>General Education Requirements . . . . .</b>	<b>19</b>

**Total Program Credits . . . . . 30**

\*Successful completion of the Sterile Processing Certificate with a minimum 2.85 GPA is required for admission to the Surgical Technology AAS degree at Saint Paul College.

### Prerequisites/Admission Guidelines:

- An application is required to register for SURG 14XX courses.
- A cumulative 2.5 GPA or above is required in general/prerequisite Sterile Processing program courses in order to register for SURG 14XX courses.
- Students with all prerequisites completed at the time of the application will be given priority.
- Remaining spots in the Sterile Processing courses will be granted based on remaining prerequisites to be completed at the time of application.
- The Sterile Processing Admissions Committee will review each application on the basis of overall academic ability, GPA of course prerequisites, completion of minimum entry requirements and meeting the above requirements. Students will be notified by their Saint Paul College emails as indicated on the Sterile Processing Course Application.
- Must complete vaccination requirements directed by faculty at required program orientation session.
- Attend required orientation session after program acceptance.
- Complete Basic Life Support for Healthcare provider (BLS) CPR prior to starting SURG 24XX courses.
- Must pass MN Department of Health and Human Services Background study.

*See back of this guide for  
 Program Start Dates & Course Sequence*

### Minimum Program Entry Requirements

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

**Reading:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722 or READ 0724 or EAPP 0900

**Writing:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922 or EAPP 0900

**Arithmetic:** Score of 250+ 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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*Information is subject to change.  
 This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

## Sterile Processing CERTIFICATE *(continued)*

### 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 Lifespan Development	3
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>8</b>

#### Second Semester

BIOL 1471 Medical Terminology	2
BIOL 2721 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1	4
BTEC 1418 Computer Fundamentals OR BTEC 1421 Business Information Applications 1	3
COMM 1710 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR COMM 1720 Interpersonal Communication	3
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>12</b>

#### 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
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>10</b>

**Total Program Credits** . . . . . **30**