

## Technical Standards for Central Sterile Processing

Our program technical standards have been developed to help students understand non-academic standards, skills, and performance requirements expected of a student to complete this program.

If an accommodation is necessary to participate in the program, it is imperative to identify a reasonable accommodation to those students who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonableness is determined by [Accessibility Resources](#) and the program on a case-by-case basis utilizing the program technical standards. The accommodation needs to be in place prior to the start of the program, or it may delay your ability to start the program. It is the student's responsibility to contact [Accessibility Resources](#) and request accommodation.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION	SPECIFIC EXAMPLES
<b>Motor skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to work with small items and computers</li> <li>Ability to lift and move up to 40 lbs.</li> <li>Ability to push or pull items up to 200 lbs.</li> <li>Ability to stand for most of an 8-hr. shift</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemble items with small parts</li> <li>Lift instrument trays and place them on a shelf or in a sink</li> <li>Move a wheeled cart carrying 200 lbs of instruments</li> <li>Standing at a decontamination sink</li> </ul>
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision sufficient to access information on small labels, electronic screens, and equipment serial numbers</li> <li>Vision sufficient enough to see tiny amounts of a material on a surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be able to read small numbers printed on instruments, computer screens, equipment printouts</li> <li>Must identify small defects and soil present on instruments</li> </ul>
<b>Hearing</b>	Hearing ability sufficient enough to process and respond to information received in environments with background noise	Hear and communicate in areas with machinery noise, beeping, and the sound of metal items being moved around
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of technology, training related to initial use then</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of the work done in this field is</li> </ul>

	<p>updates, and current technology are essential for this field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of mechanical equipment, training related to initial use then updates, identifying problems and requesting help if needed to remedy issues</li> </ul>	<p>done using technology. This includes computers, software, scanners, cameras, telephones, and other technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment operated in this field include sterilizers, mechanical washers, ultrasonic devices, and drying cabinets.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	Communication skills are essential for this job.	Employees are required and need to be able to communicate with coworkers, other surgical nurses and techs, vendors, and other hospital staff every day.
<b>Critical thinking/problem solving</b>	A sterile Processing Technician needs to be able to solve problems, make decisions that impact patient safety, and relate information verbally and via technology without constant assistance	Equipment malfunctions need to be recognized and communicated following facility protocols, patient safety issues need to be remedied as soon as possible. Logistic problems may arise such as the availability of instruments, and the Sterile Processing Technician must determine the best way to meet patient needs.
<b>Interpersonal skills</b>	Interpersonal skills are essential to perform the job duties of a Sterile Processing Technician	Sterile Processing Technicians must work with surgical staff, vendors, teammates, and other hospital staff from diverse backgrounds to accomplish various assigned tasks.

<b>Environmental tolerance</b>	<p>Sterile Processing Technician work is done in a restricted department of varying sizes. Departments are typically fluorescent lit spaces with hard flooring and metal furnishings. Noises can be magnified due to the lack of carpeting. Windows may or may not be present.</p> <p>Food and drink are not allowed in the work spaces. There are smells present associated with certain chemicals and materials used daily.</p> <p>Low temperatures are maintained in the department.</p>	<p>Must be able to stand for long periods of time in an enclosed space. Sterile Processing departments are maintained at a maximum of 68°F and low relative humidity.</p> <p>Background noise is frequently present in all areas due to mechanical equipment and the movement of metal items.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p>Must be able to comply with facility dress codes and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements.</p>	<p>Hospital-issued scrub attire, hair covers, fluid-resistant gowns, gloves, face shields, and other PPE is required in many spaces. Many employers do not allow fingernail polish or long nails, fragrance, or excessive jewelry.</p>

This document is intended to serve as a guide regarding the physical, emotional, intellectual and psychosocial expectations placed on a student. This document cannot include every conceivable action, task, ability or behavior that may be expected of a student. Meeting these technical standards does not guarantee employment in this field upon graduation. Ability to meet the program’s technical standards does not guarantee a student’s eligibility for any licensure, certification exam, or successful completion of the program.