

Central Sterile Processing Technician Apprenticeship

Occupational Overview for Employers

Expand and enhance your skilled workforce today! The Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium (HCAC) training program for Central Sterile Processing Technicians helps you recruit and retain skilled sterile processing employees.

A certified Central Sterile Processing Technicians (CRCST) is a licensed staff person able to perform cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and material management tasks in clinic and hospital settings.

Benefits of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship programs, in addition to adding new staff, are proven to build retention of current staff mentor/preceptor Central Sterile Processing Technicians and increase their leadership skills. Apprentices “learn while they earn”—working full time while gaining skills taught by experienced teachers, coaches, and assigned mentor/preceptor Central Sterile Processing Technician. Apprentices earn college credit through our college program partnerships. Healthcare Apprenticeship positions typically attract more than 30 qualified candidate applications per opening.

Learn more by [visiting our website](#), and by watching these informative short videos:

[Healthcare Apprenticeship Consortium - Overview](#)

[Healthcare Apprenticeship Consortium -Employer Apprenticeship Implementation](#)

Program Details

The apprenticeship program for Central Sterile Processing Technician involves:

- **354 hours** of classroom and lab sessions
- **2,000 hours** of work experience
- Passing the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM) exam, leading to the nationally recognized Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) certificate.

Process

Healthcare organizations employing Central Sterile Processing Technician apprentices must complete simple Training Agent and Non-Discrimination agreements to register as an employer (“Training Agent”) with the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council ([we provide guidance to help you complete this requirement](#)).

Central Sterile Processing Technician apprentices are supervised by their lab manager and work with other Central Sterile Processing Technicians who are trained as mentor/preceptors. Mentors at each location assist hospital and laboratory supervisors with apprentices’ On-the-Job learning. Classrooms (virtual real-time) and Labs (in-person) are hybrid, with access available throughout Washington and adjoining communities.



Employer program cost: \$3,700 per candidate

Includes college registration & credit. Signatory employers incur no tuition fee.

Timeline

Central Sterile Processing Technician cohort start* (depending on the hiring sequence and background check timing for each employer):

*This program can accommodate new cohorts with as little as **90 days' notice**.

2 – 3 months before program starts

- Sign agreements (TAA, EEO, etc.)
- Determine clinic, shift & lab details
- Establish implementation processes

1.5 – 2 months in advance

- Candidate recruitment
- Mentor training
- Finalize OJT Plan
- Applicant review & interviews

2 weeks in advance

- Enrollment & onboarding
- Mentor & apprentice assignment
- Register apprentices with regulatory agency(s)

Program starts

- Orientation
- Classes and clinic begin

The Central Sterile Processing Technician program is governed by and accredited through the Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium's Program Standards with the State Apprenticeship Council. Copies of our program standards are available upon request.

The Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium

The Consortium is open to all healthcare employers in Washington. The Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium (HCAC) is an all-employer (signatory and non-signatory) and multi-union Washington State-registered Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, with program administration by the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training and Education Fund.

For more information, visit healthcareapprenticeship.org