Central Sterile Processing Technician

What I do:
Prepare, sterilize, install, or clean laboratory or health care equipment. May perform routine laboratory tasks and operate or inspect equipment.

My job is most suited to people who are:
✔ Hands on
✔ Detail oriented
✔ Analytical

Related first job titles include:
Sterile Processing Technician
Central Processing Technician (CPT)
Central Sterile Supply Technician (CSS Technician)
Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician (SPD Technician)
Medical Supply Technician

WHAT MAKES MY JOB HOT?
Faster than average growth:
• In Massachusetts, this job is expected to grow by 12% from 2006-2016.

Good pay:
• 2008 Worcester earnings:
  $12.67/hr. (entry) - $18.05/hr. (experienced)
  $15.33/hr. (median)

Typical job benefits include:
• Health care
• 401(k) plan
• Tuition and certification reimbursement

Employers in Worcester include:
• UMass Memorial Medical Center
• St. Vincent’s Hospital

For more information about this job:
• O*NET Online
  http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/31-9093.00
• Career Voyages (see “Medical Equipment Preparer” in table—click for description, state report, or video)
• YouTube video on Sterile Processing
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztDY1w_c7Fo
• MassCIS (under “Medical Equipment Preparers”)
• Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD)
  http://www.sterileprocessing.org
• International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM)
  http://www.iahcsmm.org/

My main duties are to:
• Organize and assemble routine and specialty surgical instrument trays and other sterilized supplies, filling special requests as needed.
• Clean instruments and other medical devices to prepare them for sterilization.
• Operate and maintain steam, ETO, low temperature gas plasma, peracetic acid, ozone and dry heat sterilizers, keeping records of loads completed, items in loads, and maintenance procedures performed.
• Record sterilizer test results.
• Disinfect patient care equipment (e.g., infusion machines, DVT machines, suction pumps).
• Operate sterilization and processing equipment and observe gauges and equipment operation to detect malfunctions and to ensure equipment is operating to prescribed standards.
• Examine equipment to detect leaks, worn or loose parts, or other indications of disrepair.
• Report defective equipment to appropriate supervisors or staff.
• Check sterile supplies to ensure that they are stored to enhance sterility maintenance and that the packaging has not been compromised.
• Maintain records of inventory and equipment usage.

Things to consider about my job:
• Usually work in physician’s offices, clinics, surgical centers, hospitals, etc.
• Training programs require a criminal background check.
• Job requires that I wear protective clothing and equipment. Also requires stamina to stand and walk for extended periods of time and strength to frequently move 20+ lbs. of equipment.
• Some employers hire new graduates, but others prefer or require that job applicants have a few months to 1 year of work experience in a health care setting. Many employers also prefer or require certification from CBSPD or IAHCSMM, or another nationally recognized organization.
• Employers seek individuals who are organized, detail-oriented, and careful to read and follow instructions. Also seek solid communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Job requires patience to perform routine tasks and skill to work with small parts.

SOURCE: Career Voyages; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey; Massachusetts Wage Information; MA Department of Workforce Development; Massachusetts Career Information System; YouTube; America’s Career InfoNet (O*NET OnLine)

Source: Best Bets, Jobs for the Future
### Developmental Education Courses
- MA 090 – Basic Math
- LN 090 – Intro to Language

### Prerequisite Courses and Other Program Admissions Requirements
- Completion of CP 200: Central Processing Technician Program through the Mass Bay Corporate Training Center. Or complete Certified Registered Central Service Technician Online through Purdue University.
- Must Pass IAHCSMM Certification Exam
- Criminal background check

### Postsecondary and Career Pathway

#### STEP 1: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- **Accuplacer Scores**
  - Arithmetic: 90 or above
  - Algebra: No required score
  - Reading: No required score
  - Essay: Your placement essay must meet the standards for WR 100

#### STEP 2: PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS
- **Completion of CP 200: Central Processing Technician Program** through the Mass Bay Corporate Training Center. Or complete Certified Registered Central Service Technician Online through Purdue University.
- Must Pass IAHCSMM Certification Exam
- Criminal background check

#### STEP 3: COURSE SEQUENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1 Courses</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Grade Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIO 110 General Biology</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CM 110 Principles and Practice I</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2 Courses</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Grade Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CM 102 Principles and Practice II</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CM 102 C Clinical</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CS 104 Microcomputer Application for Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3 Courses</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Grade Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CM 103 Principles and Practice III</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CM 103C Clinical</td>
<td>C (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MAC 100 Business Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WR 100 College Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WR 100L College Writing Lab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4 Courses if Applicable</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Grade Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 5 Courses if Applicable</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Grade Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### STEP 4: LAND YOUR FIRST JOB
- Graduate with a Certificate in Central Services and Materials Management, pass the certification exam and land your first job.

#### STEP 5: OR, after some experience as a Central Sterile Processing Technician, consider:
- Surgical Technologist, $21.24 (median); or
- Registered Nursing, $33.21 (median)

#### STEP 6: Central Sterile Processing Tech II
- 1-2 yrs. experience
- ~$15/hr.

#### STEP 7: Central Sterile Processing Tech III
- 2-3 yrs. experience
- ~$18/hr

#### STEP 8: Manager
- Bachelor's degree; Master's degree a plus
- 5+ yrs. experience
- ~$35+/hr.

- Supervisor
  - Some college credits or Associate's degree preferred
  - 3+ yrs. Experience preferred
  - ~$25/hr.

- Source: Best Bets, Jobs for the Future

---

Get Work Experience!
- Volunteer in a hospital
- Complete Practicum course (BIO111) to complete 200 hours of job training!