

# Sterile Processing Technology Certificate in Applied Science

## **Mission Statement:**

Greenville Technical College is a large urban college with students from diverse socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. The college is dedicated to excellence, flexibility, accessibility, comprehensiveness, leadership and community. As a part of the college, the Department of Surgical Technology has designed a Sterile Processing Technology curriculum that is educationally flexible and provides career mobility. Graduates are prepared to practice safely within their role and to promote, protect, and improve the health of the diverse community. The faculty is committed to competency-based education and supports the philosophy and mission of the college to prepare graduates who are adaptable to change and ready to face the challenges of the health care workplaces of the future. Further, it is the mission of the Sterile Processing Technology Program to actively develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with its diverse health care community and meet rapidly changing employment needs.

## **Entrance Requirements:**

Acceptable placement test score(s); plus high school diploma or GED

## **Type of Program:**

Day

## **Professional Credentials:**

Certified Registered Central Sterile Technician (subject to passing the exam)

## **Employment Opportunities:**

Sterile processing departments, hospitals, surgical centers, obstetrical care offices, veterinarians' offices, physician's offices, and dentists' offices

- This program teaches students to prepare instruments/packages for processing, decontamination, ultrasonic cleaner disinfection, sterilization, and distribution.
- In order to be eligible for seating into the program, students must
  - Meet college admissions requirements and have a high school diploma or GED.
  - Meet the specific program requirements outlined in the School of Health Sciences admissions requirements.
  - Attend Career Talk (current within two years).
  - The TEAS entrance exam is not required for Sterile Processing students. Students planning to continue into the Surgical Technology Diploma Program will be required to take the TEAS exam. The TEAS entrance exam is available at the Placement Testing Center in the Admissions and Registration Center.
  - Have a negative 10-panel drug screen. Random drug screens may also be performed throughout the program.
  - Have a crime-free criminal background. Students must be able to attend all clinical experiences.
- Students are admitted in the Fall Semester or Summer Semester.
- Seating process:
  - Submit a weighted admission form between the dates of February 1 – May 15 for potential admission into fall classes. After the seats are awarded to the diploma students with the highest points, the remainder of the seats are assigned as sterile processing seats based on the remaining top points. Submit a weighted admission form between January 14 – April 14 for the summer semester or email the Department Head at [Joyce.Moyer@gvltec.edu](mailto:Joyce.Moyer@gvltec.edu).
  - To reserve a seat, students must pay \$100 non-refundable deposit and submit a completed physical prior to the deadline stated in the acceptance letter. (The physical exam may not be older than 12 months prior to beginning Surgical Processing courses.)
- Students must have evidence of valid healthcare provider CPR certification, preclinical requirements, and health requirements prior to beginning clinical rotations.
- Students who successfully complete the program and complete 400 hands-on hours in the sterile processing department with documentation are eligible to sit for the Certified Sterile Technician Certification Exam, and upon passing would become certified registered central sterile technicians (CRCST).

- The student must achieve a final average of 78% to complete the course.
- Progression into the Surgical Technology diploma program requirements include
  - Completion of all Surgical Technology diploma requirements up to this point with the addition of taking the TEAS entrance exam.
  - A grade of "C" or higher in all program and general education courses.
- Advanced placement into the surgical technology diploma program will be allowed within the following 12 months of exiting the certificate program if the following are completed:
  - Validation of knowledge and skills for SUR 101, SUR 102, and SUR 123. Students successfully completing the Sterile Processing Certificate course in the summer prior to the start of the fall semester of the same year will not be required to validate knowledge.
  - All clinical participation component requirements are current.

**Recommended Program Schedule**

**First Semester - Fall**

SUR	101	Introduction to Surgical Technology	5.0
SUR	102	Applied Surgical Technology	5.0
SUR	123	Sterile Processing Technology	3.0

**Total Required Credit Hours: 13.0**

Visit <https://www.gvltec.edu/gainful-employment/> for important information about the educational debt, earnings and graduation rates of students who attended programs.