



# Central Processing Technology Program

Nashville State  
Community College

120 White Bridge Road  
Nashville, TN 37209  
(615) 353-3708

## What does a Central Processing Technician do?

Before an operation, Central Processing Technicians help prepare for the procedure by assembling and sterilizing surgical instruments and collecting equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions for the surgical team. They assemble both sterile and nonsterile equipment, as well as checking and adjusting it to ensure it is working properly.

During surgery, Central Processing Technicians provide additional instruments and other sterile supplies to the surgical team as needed. They may facilitate delivery and/or transportation of those items to the surgical suite.

After an operation, Central Processing Technicians may help transfer used instruments and equipment and restock the operating room. They ensure decontamination of used instruments and supplies meet necessary standards to protect subsequent patients from infection and complete the reprocessing procedure by assembling and sterilizing instruments for reuse.

Central Processing Technicians, with work experience, may receive advanced placement in selection for the Surgical Technology Program at NSCC.

Central Processing Technicians work in clean, well-lighted, cool environments. They must stand for long periods, be detail-oriented and remain focused for long periods. At times, they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.

### Career information:

- \* Central Processing Technicians work in hospital-based instrument rooms or Central Service departments.
- \* Central Processing Technicians may also work in outpatient and veterinary surgical settings.
- \* Many varied and flexible schedules are offered.
- \* Expertise in Central Processing helps insure patients receive safe surgical care without postoperative complications.

## The Central Processing Technology Program is a 26 credit hour Technical Certificate.

**Seeing your advisor early in your academic path will help you take the courses that you need to complete your course of study in a timely manner.**

## Admission Procedure

The application process for the Central Processing Technology Program is as follows:

1. Submit an [Application for Admission](#) to the Admissions department and turn in everything required to be admitted as a student at NSCC. **Please be sure you provide everything Admissions needs from you or you will not be eligible for an interview for the Central Processing Technology program.**
2. Submit a Program Application (found in the Application Packet link on the Central Processing Program website) and a complete set of transcripts (high school and college) to the department secretary in office D-27 or fax it to 615-353-3608 before the appropriate deadline (stated at the top of the application).
3. You must have completed any required college-prep courses (as determined by placement test scores) before an interview will be granted. These courses include: MATH 0810, READ 0810, ENGL 0810 and any ESOL classes.
4. The application process MUST be completed no later than the above stated deadlines. Incomplete applications may not be eligible for selection. **Applications without attached transcripts will NOT be considered for selection.**

**Enrollment in classes with class numbers beginning in 'CSPT' requires  
interview and instructor's approval.**

**\*Re-interview requires that the admission procedure be repeated by the deadline for the next class.**

Member of



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# Central Processing Technology Technical Certificate

## Acceptance into the Program

### Is based on:

- \* Previous grade point average
- \* Interview score
- \* Successful completion of courses counting toward Surgical Technology Program (see courses marked with \* in column to right) with a C or higher
- \* Previous work in the medical field
- \* College Placement Testing Scores
- \* Tennessee residency is not a requirement for the program.

## Courses Required for the Central Processing Technology Technical Certificate

BIOL 1000 - Medical Terminology *	3 Credits
SURG 2310 - Basic Anatomy/Physiology *	3 Credits
SURG 1410 -Surgical Microbiology and Asepsis*	3 Credits
CSPT 1401- Intro to Central Processing	4 Credits
CSPT 1102– Central Processing Laboratory	1 Credit
CSPT 1310 – Central Processing Capstone	3 Credits
CSPT 1511 – Central Processing Practicum I (Practical: 25 hours per week)	5 Credits
CSPT 1412 - Clinical Practicum II (Practical: 25 hours per week)	4 Credits

**\*These courses count toward the Surgical Technology AND Central Processing Technology certificates and may be taken prior to acceptance into either Program.**

**TAKING THESE COURSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE INTO THESE PROGRAMS.**

### Course Descriptions:

#### **CSPT 1401-Intro to Central Processing Technology 4 Credits**

3 Class Hours, 3 Lab Hours

An introduction to principles, techniques and issues in the surgical and central service environment. Topics include patient care concepts, equipment and instrumentation, job responsibilities, sterile technique, professional management and self-management. CSPT 1001 concepts are reinforced by exercises in CSPT 1002.

#### **CSPT 1102 - Central Processing Skills Laboratory**

1 Credit, 3 Lab Hours

A study of Sterile Technique and basic techniques necessary to function as a Central Processing Technician in the surgical central service environment. Topics include principles of sterile technique, cleaning, assembly, and testing of equipment, wrapping and packaging techniques, inspecting and folding of linens, assembling instrument/procedure trays, operating sterilization equipment, storage of clean and sterile supplies, preparing case carts, pulling for cases, distributing supplies, and inventory control. CSPT 1001 provides rationale and concepts to support exercises in this course.

#### **CSPT 1310 - Central Processing Capstone**

3 Credits 3 Class Hours

An overview of the surgical and central service environment, clinical management and documentation skills, and CRCST certification exam preparation. CSPT 1010 concepts are reinforced by experiences in CSPT 1011 and CSPT 1012.

#### **CSPT 1511 - Central Processing Practicum I**

5 Credits, 5 Lab Hours

Course consists of one five-week supervised clinical rotation during which students will complete comprehensive orientation to clinical practica, practice the skills necessary to perform the duties of a central processing technician, develop professional behaviors while in the surgical and central service environment, and learn to adequately document their experiences in their Practica. CSPT 1010 provides rationale and concepts to support experiences in this course.

#### **CSPT 1412 - Central Processing Practicum II**

4 Credits, 4 Lab Hours

Course consists of one five-week supervised clinical rotation during which students will complete orientation to a second clinical site, practice the skills necessary to perform the duties of a central processing technician, develop professional behaviors while in the surgical and central service environment, and to adequately document their experiences in their Practica. CSPT 1010 provides rationale and concepts to support experiences in this course.