



## Technical Standards

### STERILE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

#### Washburn Institute of Technology/Washburn Tech

The technical standards discussed in the following chart define performance expectations that must be met for advancement through and successful completion of the **Sterile Processing Technology program**. It is the policy of Washburn Tech to provide reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities, health impairments, and other disabling conditions. These standards can also be used to determine whether accommodations or modifications are necessary and have been established through consideration by faculty and consultation with the following sources: consultation with the advisory committee for the program, The Vocational Rehabilitation Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act, Dictionary of Occupational Titles, O\*Net Online developed for the U.S. Department of Labor.

ABILITY	STANDARD	Some examples of necessary activities (not all inclusive)
<p><b>Physical Demands / Motor Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must have the ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of your hands, arms and legs. This will include fine motor abilities like finger dexterity, manual dexterity; arm-hand steadiness, and trunk strength. This must be done in a timely manner for safe and effective patient care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the ability to bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, hands and arms</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp retractors, manipulate or assemble small instrument parts quickly with good hand eye coordination.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to quickly and continuously pass instruments in a timely manner with precision</li> <li>• Must have the ability to lift 50 lbs of weight.</li> <li>• Have the ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body for standing continuously, sometimes for 6 hrs. and for lifting and moving an unconscious patient</li> <li>• Refrain from restroom breaks for up to 6 hrs.</li> <li>• Must be able to move/ambulate without assistive devices</li> <li>• Transport heavy supplies and equipment</li> <li>• Student will be exposed to a wide range of chemical and biological agents that could be potentially harmful</li> <li>• Wear PPE for safe practices</li> </ul>

<p><b>Critical Thinking/ Sensory/ Observation/ Reasoning Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must be able to use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of situations or approaches to problems.</li> <li>• Must be able to be attentive in the classroom and clinical areas, observe demonstrations and participate in lab and clinical.</li> <li>• Must be able to problem solve and have good clinical judgment</li> <li>• Must be able to recognize when there is a problem or a potential problem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be able to adapt to stressful situations quickly and calmly</li> <li>• Demonstrate problem solving skills preoperatively, intra-operatively and postoperatively.</li> <li>• Be observant of contamination of sterile areas and know what to do about them.</li> <li>• Make appropriate judgment decisions</li> <li>• Combine pieces of information to form conclusions and to apply surgical practices</li> <li>• Demonstrate calm and effective behavior and responses, especially during emergency situations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioral / Social Skills and Professionalism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpersonal skills to interact with colleagues and patients from a variety of social, emotional, intellectual and cultural backgrounds</li> <li>• Must show emotional stability</li> <li>• Show respect and dignity for all patients regardless of their backgrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibit positive interpersonal skills in patient, staff and faculty interactions</li> <li>• Recognize appropriate boundaries in relationships with patients and colleagues</li> <li>• Demonstrate good team building skills</li> <li>• Must possess the ability to handle demanding clinical assignments and handle the stress that goes with it.</li> <li>• Must demonstrate emotional maturity, integrity, flexibility, and empathy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory/ Communication Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have visual perception</li> <li>• Must have sufficient observational skills necessary for correct patient care</li> <li>• Must have acute hearing ability to be able to monitor and assess surgical team needs for safe patient care.</li> <li>• Tactile ability to perform a surgical technologists duties in a timely manner</li> <li>• Communicate in English verbally and written.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient visual ability to load a fine (10-0) suture onto a needle holder with or without corrective lenses and while wearing safety glasses</li> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate the surgeon and function in the sterile environment.</li> <li>• Have the ability to see clearly the sterile field, back table, Instruments and supplies without holding items closer than 18 inches from face with or without corrective lenses and wearing safety glasses.</li> <li>• Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the person's mouth and lips and within 20 ft.</li> <li>• Hear activation/ warning signals on equipment</li> <li>• Must understand and be able to communicate clearly with written or verbal skills using the English language</li> <li>• Recognize instruments by feel; hold and operate retractors at correct strength for surgical procedure and surgeon's preference.</li> <li>• Insert and remove urinary catheters</li> <li>• Must be able to read calibrations on syringes from at least 18 inches away</li> <li>• Be able to detect unusual smells</li> </ul>

<p><b>Health/Memory</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Student must possess immunity to certain diseases</li> <li>• *Student must be in good general health without dependencies on addictive substances</li> <li>• Must have good short term and long term memorization skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must demonstrate immunity to rubella, rubella, TB, and hepatitis B or be vaccinated against these diseases</li> <li>• Student must possess short term and long term memory sufficient to perform tasks such as, but not limited to mentally tracking surgical supplies and performing anticipation skills intra-operatively</li> <li>• Must be free of communicable diseases and chemical dependence</li> </ul>
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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE INSTRUCTOR.  
TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ENROLLMENT IN STERILE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY  
Washburn Institute of Technology

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the expectations, as explained on the previous page, must be for advancement through and successful completion of the **Sterile Processing Technology** program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Upon admission to the program, I received a copy of the Technical Standards and they have been explained to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to discuss the Standards checked below.

\_\_\_\_\_ A. Physical Demands / Motor Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ B. Critical Thinking /Sensory/Observation / Reasoning Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ C. Behavioral / Social Skills and Professionalism

\_\_\_\_\_ D. Communication Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ E. Working Conditions

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS: (If additional information, attach another page.)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Disability**

The Campus Advocate is responsible for assisting in arranging accommodations and for identifying resources at Washburn Tech for persons with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities MUST register and provide documentation with the office to be eligible for services. New requests for accommodations should be submitted two months or more prior to the date services should begin; however, contact the Campus Advocate as soon as a need may arise. Depending on the accommodation request, four to eight-week lead time may be needed for timely and effective provision of services. The Campus Advocate coordinates and assists in arranging services it deems appropriate for eligible students on a case-by-case basis.

If you are a student with a disability that may substantially limit your ability to participate in this class and believe you will need accommodations, it is your responsibility to contact:

**The Campus Advocate**

Location: Building A, room 117C

Phone: 785-670-3364

E-Mail: [shelley.bearman@washburntech.edu](mailto:shelley.bearman@washburntech.edu)

**Non-Discrimination**

Washburn University [prohibits discrimination](#) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, or marital or parental status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Pamela Foster, Equal Opportunity Director/Title IX Coordinator, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave, Topeka, Kansas 66621, 785.670.1509, [codirector@washburn.edu](mailto:codirector@washburn.edu).