



# **STERILE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

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The mission of the Sterile Processing program is to provide a learning environment and experiences in both didactic and clinical training that reflects occupational trends and meets the needs of the region. The profession of sterile processing is service oriented and requires trained, disciplined personnel. The sterile processing technician works closely with multi-disciplinary team members to prevent infection and ensure the best possible outcome for the surgical patient. The sterile processing technician’s commitment to excellence, as well as expertise, knowledge and clinical judgment must be of the utmost consideration in the performance of related duties. The sterile processing technician must be flexible, alert, and prepared to meet the needs of the profession.

SOWELA Technical Community College Sterile Processing students are expected to perform duties associated with those of the profession, which means able to perform their clinical care responsibilities in a safe, appropriate, and effective manner free from the adverse effects of physical, mental, emotional, and personal problems. The student must be able to meet the following requirements or perform the following skills in order to participate in all clinical portions of the Sterile Processing program. These standards are not intended to discourage individuals from considering the Sterile Processing program, but to provide an overview so that individuals can make a well-informed decision regarding their academic pursuits. It is the policy of SOWELA Technical Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities, health impairments, and other conditions. Individuals that would like to pursue a degree in this program and believe they may need accommodations are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Disability Services at (337) 421 – 6576 or ods@sowela.edu.

<b>ABILITY</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Some examples of necessary activities (not all inclusive)</b>
<b>Physical Demands / Motor Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must have the individual ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of your hands, arms and legs and moving your whole body. This will include Extent Flexibility, Finger Dexterity, Manual Dexterity, Arm-Hand Steadiness, Trunk Strength, and Control Precision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the ability to stand, move, bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, arms, and/or legs and doing such movements as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, pushing and pulling and handling of materials.</li> <li>• Must have the ability to individually make precise coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or place small objects.</li> <li>• Have the ability to quickly adjust the controls of a machine to exact positions</li> <li>• Must have the ability to lift or pull 50 lbs. of weight, carry 20 lbs. of weight, push less than 100 lbs. of weight, or push with assist greater than 100 lbs. of weight.</li> <li>• Must be able to stand for long period of time in one location with minimum/no breaks.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have the ability to individually operate machinery and equipment safely and efficiently. Perform fine motor skills; manipulate equipment and instruments; eye hand coordination.</li> <li>• Distinguish left from right.</li> <li>• Employ hand and finger dexterity while working; perform manual activities free from tremors and/or jerking motions to prevent injury from sharp instrumentation/items.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical Thinking/ Observation/ Sensory/ 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 alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.</li> <li>• Must be able to be attentive in the classroom, observe demonstrations and participate in lab classes.</li> <li>• Must have visual and auditory perception.</li> <li>• Must be able to problem solve and diagnose including obtaining, interpreting, and documenting data.</li> <li>• Must be able to recognize when there is a problem or possible problem.</li> <li>• Make themselves aware of their surroundings by using their senses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate problem solving skills.</li> <li>• Has sight requirements of acuity, near and far, with correction if needed, depth perception, color vision able to read fine print and field of vision.</li> <li>• Has hearing requirements of ability to hear ordinary conversation, low or muted tones and able to interpret sounds accurately with ancillary noises or conversations occurring simultaneously. (corrective devices may be used if needed)</li> <li>• Possess the ability to learn quickly and retain information.</li> <li>• Adapt to irregular working hours while maintaining alertness</li> <li>• Respond quickly and in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations</li> <li>• Problem solve using conceptual, integrative and quantitative reasoning skills.</li> <li>• Recognize abnormal mechanical sounds and abnormal conditions occurring in machinery operation.</li> <li>• Notice and respond appropriately to unusual smells.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Behavioral / Social Skills and Professionalism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must conduct self in a professional manner.</li> <li>• Must exhibit cultural/religious awareness and sensitivity in interactions with patients, colleagues, and supervisors.</li> <li>• Must be able to adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension.</li> <li>• Develop and improve skills in organization, prioritization, and time management methods.</li> <li>• Develop a professional character, including appearance and mature behavior to become an employable individual to provide the community with viable members of a workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have face-to-face discussions with individuals in work areas. Have good personal hygiene, professional conduct and appearance.</li> <li>• Be willing to work with others building team skills.</li> <li>• Demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation.</li> <li>• Maintain client confidentiality.</li> <li>• Be an honest and ethical worker. Be pleasant with others and display a good-natured, cooperative attitude.</li> <li>• Be careful about detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks.</li> <li>• Be able to withstand unusual sights/odors while remaining professional and performing job duties.</li> <li>• Display emotional stability with the ability to handle stress, tolerate inconsistencies, and maintain a positive and professional attitude.</li> <li>• Exhibit accountability and responsibility in all actions and subsequent consequences or accolades.</li> <li>• Exhibit an increased awareness of civic values by putting others first and acknowledging individual differences while striving for equality and fairness with concern for those most in need.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must be able to communicate not only in speech but reading and writing in English.</li> <li>• Must be sensitive to multicultural and multilingual needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use English language proficiently to communicate with individuals of all professions and social levels.</li> <li>• Communicate in a rational and coherent manner both orally and in writing.</li> <li>• Able to read and write in English.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Working Conditions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have the ability to work in various environments.</li> <li>• Must meet work environment criteria at time of employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be free from any blood borne infections that may risk transmission to the patient, OR staff or peers.</li> <li>• Recognize that work environment will include exposure to blood borne pathogens, diseases and toxic or caustic substances (sterility agents, fumes, development of latex allergy).</li> <li>• Be able to wear full PPE for extended</li> </ul>

		<p>periods of time during decontamination process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for decontaminating, inspecting, assembling, disassembling, packaging, and sterilizing reusable surgical instruments or devices in a healthcare facility that are essential for patient safety.</li> <li>• Maintain proper storage of sterile equipment/items.</li> <li>• Take inventory of supplies needed for packaging, cleaning and decontaminating equipment.</li> <li>• Documenting and recording maintenance.</li> </ul>
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It is essential for students to perform these activities in the clinical portion of the program with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who have chronic illnesses or conditions must be managed and maintained on a current treatment plan and be able to function during a clinical day without impairment. Students are not required to disclose any chronic or recurrent illness and/or disability. Students who identify potential difficulties or may not have the ability to meet these standards or perform these skills, should contact the Sterile Processing program instructor, and communicate their concerns.

Should the concern be related to a documented disability, students are responsible to contact the College ADA Service officer to complete the necessary paperwork required. Determination of reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be made on an individual basis in the Sterile Processing department in consultation with the ADA officer. A list of services and facilities are available for students with disabilities can be found on the SOWELA website at: <https://www.sowela.edu/student-life/student-services/disability-services/>

SOWELA Technical Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title: Compliance Office  
 Address: 3820 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave, Lake Charles, LA 70616  
 Telephone No: 337-421-6565 or 800-256-0483  
 Email: [complianceofficer@sowela.edu](mailto:complianceofficer@sowela.edu)

