



# Medical Device Reprocessing Technician

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## Overview

Play a critical supporting role in medicine and healthcare with our Medical Device Reprocessing Technician certificate program.

This fast-paced program provides entry-level training in decontamination, inspection, packaging, sterilizing, storing and handling sterile supplies and surgical instruments, focusing on infection prevention and control and aseptic techniques.

With an emphasis on hands-on learning, you'll spend time in simulated laboratory and real-world clinical environments, developing your professional competencies to ensure you can enter the workforce with confidence and advanced practical knowledge while working safely and professionally.

As a student, you will:

- learn the specifics of cleaning processes for various medical-surgical instruments and equipment
- gain expertise in handling surgical equipment and assembling sterilized surgical packages for use or storage
- master the use of autoclaves and other sterilization equipment
- understand the principles of sterile storage to maintain instrument integrity
- develop the skills to handle surgical equipment and instruments to perform function testing while preventing contamination
- focus on preventing infection through meticulous adherence to safety and infection control protocols
- practice the critical techniques necessary to maintain a sterile environment
- develop professional responsibility, including scope of practice, ethics, communication, critical thinking, accountability and professional collaboration.

As a graduate, you'll be eligible for positions like medical device reprocessing technician, sterile processing technician or sterile service aide.

You'll find a range of employment opportunities in settings like hospitals, surgical centers, laboratories, specialty clinics, dental clinics, outpatient care facilities and private and public healthcare institutions.

Our Medical Device Reprocessing program prepares you to write either the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management exam or the Canadian Standards Association exam to become a Certified Registered Central Service Technician, allowing you to work as a medical device reprocessing technician professional.

## Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those in sterile processing need:

- fine motor skills
- critical thinking and adaptability
- effective communication skills
- the ability to work independently
- to work well under stress, maintain professional behaviour and emotionally self-regulate
- to be able to use technology
- attention to detail
- to tolerate the sight of human blood and tissue
- the ability to assist in transporting, lifting and positioning patients and equipment and meet the physical demands of the job (for example, using your hand, wrist and arm for prolonged periods)
- the ability to lift 40 pounds (20 kilograms) and push or pull 250 pounds (110 kilograms) frequently.

Medical device reprocessing technicians and related professionals must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for extended periods. This includes exposure to latex and disinfection materials.

You may also be required to work extended hours and shift work, including nights and weekends.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to the [ALIS website for career, learning, and employment information for surgical processors](#) to ensure you can successfully meet the occupational requirements for the program and profession.

## Professional designations and certifications

This program is recognized by the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Graduates are prepared to challenge the certification exams for both these bodies. SAIT program administrators can assist with you with exam preparation.

As the certification requirements vary across provincial and national jurisdictions, graduates are encouraged to challenge both exams to maximize their employability.

## Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Medical Device Reprocessing Technician certificate.

## Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

This program includes a required practicum. Practicums are not necessarily consecutive and may not be continuous with the end of the theory portion of the program. For example, there may be a gap between finishing your theory classes and starting your practicum.

You will be assigned practicum placements with consideration given to your preference of location. However, due to limited availability in Calgary, you might need to travel or relocate outside the city. Special considerations will not be accommodated.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, you will be required to provide specific documentation before you can participate in your practicum. [Find out what requirements you need for this program.](#)

## Admission requirements

### Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) and completion of the following courses or equivalents:

- at least 60% in English Language Arts 30-1 or at least 70% in English Language Arts 30-2, and
- at least 60% in Science 20, Biology 20 or Chemistry 20, or at least 70% in Science 24.

SAIT accepts [high school course equivalents](#) for admission for applicants educated outside Alberta.

### Applicants educated outside of Canada

All applicants who were educated outside of Canada must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) and provide proof they meet the program admission requirements with an international document assessment. [Find accepted educational documents and assessment options.](#)

SAIT may also accept courses completed at certain [international post-secondary institutions](#).

## Costs

### 2024/25 tuition and fees

The following estimated costs are effective as of July 1, 2024.

#### Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	1.5	\$7,596	\$1,211	\$8,807

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<b>Total cost:</b>				<b>\$8,807</b>

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees for domestic students is based on the recommended course load per year.

## Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately \$400 per full-time year.

This is a bring-your-own-device program with a standard computer hardware and software requirement. See the specific requirements on our [computers and laptops page](#). A laptop is preferable to other device types.

Find your booklist on the [SAIT Bookstore's](#) website. Booklists are created by semester and available approximately two weeks before classes begin.

## Required uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE)

The industry-approved PPE you'll need will be discussed during your first few days of classes.

Your required uniform can be purchased before orientation from anywhere that sells medical uniforms. Your uniform should consist of:

- a scrub top and bottom
- safety glasses
- comfortable, closed-toe and closed-heel, water-impervious, slip-resistant shoes.

## Additional fees

- A fee is associated with obtaining a police information check, including a vulnerable sector check, payable to the police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
- You must have your immunizations reviewed by the SAIT Health Clinic. There is a \$75 charge to review vaccine history. Any vaccines you need to be administered will result in additional charges.
- A fee of approximately \$50 to \$100 is associated with an electronic student permit checking submission required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.
- A fee is associated with the CompKeepr application used in this program.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.
- You may be required to hold the [Healthcare Sterile Processing Association \(HSPA\)](#) or the [Canadian Standards Association \(CSA\)](#) certification to gain employment. The HSPA certification exam fee is approximately \$140, and the CSA certification exam fee is approximately \$263.