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.

Our graduates often work within public, private, and community-based organizations and businesses, including hospitals, surgical centres, laboratories, specialty clinics, dental clinics, and outpatient care facilities.

Based on demand, you may need to relocate outside of Calgary to secure employment.

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
- efficient time management skills
- to be able to use technology
- attention to detail
- to tolerate the sight of human blood and tissue
- the ability to meet the physical demands of the job, including but not limited to:
    - using your hands, wrists, and arms for prolonged periods of time
    - lifting 22 pounds (10 kilograms)
    - pushing/pulling 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 during the daytime, evening, and overnight, on both weekdays 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 program's and profession's occupational requirements.

SAIT program pathways

Graduates of SAIT's Pre-Health Sciences program may meet the admission requirements for this program.

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. In addition, practicum shifts may occur during the daytime, evening, and overnight, on both weekdays and weekends.

The healthcare field has a strong focus on health, wellness, and fitness to practice due to the demanding nature of the work and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. As such, special considerations will not be granted based on individual circumstances or preferences, except those stated as protected grounds when an accommodation has been approved.

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.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

Graduates are eligible to challenge the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA), and, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification exams. Program administrators will assist you in this process.

As the certification requirements for employment vary across provincial and national jurisdictions, you are encouraged to challenge both the HSPA and CSA exams, in order to maximize your employability.

Credentials

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

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, or 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

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following estimated costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees is based on the suggested schedule of study. Following a modified schedule will impact the fees you pay per semester and may alter final costs.

Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	1.5*	$7,596	$1,333.75	$8,929.75
			Total cost:	**$8,929.75**

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

*.5 indicates a combination of full-time semester(s) and part-time semester(s) in the same academic year. In many cases, students are completing a practicum during their part-time semester. Part-time students are those taking less than nine (9) course credits in a semester. You are not eligible for the UPass during a part-time semester.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $1,200.

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
- 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).
- The School of Health and Public Safety strongly recommends that students meet Alberta Health Services' Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students. Fees for completing immunization requirements start at $85, however, may increase, depending on your vaccination history, and any new immunizations you choose to acquire.
- 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 of approximately $75 to $100 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 $190, and the CSA certification exam fee is approximately $280.